Supreme Court says P6.5-B Photokina deal illegal

Story on PAGE A2

Who is Tagud?

S. TAGUD JR.

By Fe Zamora
Inq7.net

ON the day the INQUIRER reported the overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue, Sulficio Tagud Jr. was swamped with text messages from

WHO/A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Lawmaker tells Enrile anti-coal drive popular

By Ronnel Domingo and Christine Avendano

BUT coal-fired plants do deserve to be shut down.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales yesterday reminded former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile that many Filipinos actually want the country's coal-fired

LAWMAKER/A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, September 20, 2002 ★ 74 pages / 8 sections / vol. 17 / no. 284
website: www.inq7.net

GMA orders PEA, GSIS to explain

Senate to probe P600-M highway overprice

GOOD DAY AT THE PALACE: President Macapagal welcomes kidnap victims Carlo and Cristina, children of Rep.Jules Ledesma (partly hidden) who thanks the President for their safe release. The Ledesmas came with a new member of the family, actress Assunta de Rossi. EDWIN BACASMAS

THE P1-BILLION loan the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) extended to the Public Estates Authority (PEA) for the construction of an access road at the Manila Bay reclamation area that was allegedly overpriced by P600 million was fully secured by real estate collateral.

Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, gave the assurance yesterday to the 1.5 million members of the pension fund after President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the PEA and the GSIS to explain in writing in 72 hours the alleged overprice of the 5.1-km road that was named after the President's father.

In the Senate, opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon called on the blue ribbon committee to immediately investigate the alleged overpricing of the newly opened President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue (PDMA). The construction of the PDMA, which runs parallel to Roxas Boulevard, was intended to pave the way for the development of the 750-hectare reclamation area and relieve traffic along the boulevard.

House Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico also sought an investigation of the deal and asked Malacañang to freeze the payments to the JD Legaspi Construction, contractor of the 2.3-km portion of the road.

"It is already surprising that a 5-km, eight-lane asphalt road can cost the government P1.1 billion. But it is doubly mind-boggling that it took two years for three construction consortiums to finish the project," he said.

In a statement, Garcia said: "The GSIS is just a funder of the-PEA—no more no less. We are therefore not involved in the bid-

GMA/A18

SC: P6.5-B Photokina deal illegal

By Michael Lim Ubac and Blanche Rivera

A GOVERNMENT contract does not necessarily go to the winning bidder, if the winning bid exceeds the budget allocated by Congress.

The Supreme Court yesterday ruled 14-0 that the P6.588-billion contract awarded to Photokina Marketing Inc. to computerize the country's voters' registration list was "illegal and against public policy," because its cost was "way beyond the amount appropriated by Congress." The 2000 budget reserved only P1 billion for the Voters' Registration and Identification System project.

The high court said the Commission on Elections would set "a dangerous precedent" if it honored the VRIS contract.

"In fine, we rule that Photokina, though the winning bidder, cannot compel the Comelec to formalize the contract. Since Photokina's bid is beyond the amount appropriated by Congress for the VRIS project, the proposed contract is not binding upon the Comelec and is considered void," the decision penned by Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez read.

Two former Comelec chairs who opposed the Photokina deal said they

SC/A19

P15

THE LONG and short of it is that President Macapagal and Fernando Poe Jr. have nothing much to say to each other when at last they meet at the Palace on Thursday for the awarding of the 10 film entries to the Metro Manila Film Festival in December. EDWIN BACASMAS

When 'Da King' meets the President

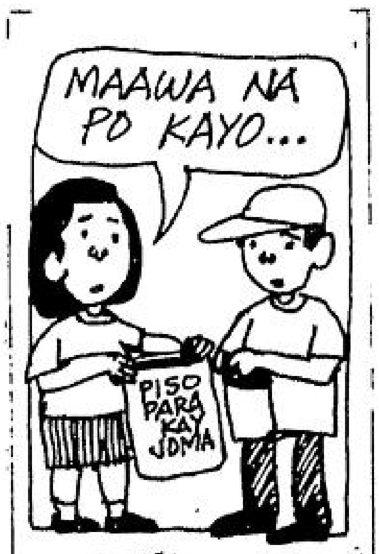
By Dona Pazzibugan

THE LONG and short of it was that when they finally met, President Macapagal-Arroyo had nothing much to say to the "King of Philippine Movies," Fernando Poe Jr., also better known by his initials, FPJ.

Persistently rumored to be the opposition standard bearer in 2004, allegedly at the urging of his best friend, former President Joseph Estrada, FPJ came to Malacañang for the awarding of the 10 entries selected for the Metro Manila Film Festival to be held in December. FPJ is the producer of one of the chosen films, "Alamat ng Agimat."

Ms Macapagal led the awarding rites. All she said to him when they met was, "It's a good thing you joined us."

WHEN/A4



Militants launch 'piso' for Joma drive

By Philip S. Tubeza

CAN you spare a buck?

Members of the militant youth group Anakbayan are raising funds for Jose Maria Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, who has lived in self-exile for 14 years in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Anakbayan-NCR secre-

MILITANTS/A18

Bush seeks Congress OK for plan to attack Iraq

WASHINGTON—The Bush administration sharpened its push for a quick congressional vote authorizing possible military action against Iraq, drafting a strongly worded resolution for delivery to lawmakers Thursday.

Three senior White House aides familiar with the draft said it would give Bush maximum flexibility to confront the threat posed by Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, including an explicit OK to use military force. One of the officials said the resolution also would adopt much of the same language found in the 1998 law calling for a regime change in Iraq.

As administration officials laid the groundwork for any Iraqi campaign, US officials at the United Nations worked to reconstruct an anti-Iraq consensus shattered by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's offer Monday to let UN weapons inspectors return after nearly four years. The UN Security Council was to discuss plans for inspections at a session Thursday.

Secretary of State Colin Powell gave President George W. Bush a progress report Wednesday on US efforts at the United Nations. Powell was due back at the White House on Thursday morning for more strategy talks on the administration's next moves with wary allies, a senior White House official said.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told the House armed services committee on Wednesday that Congress must act before the Security Council does.

"Delaying a vote in the Congress would send a message that the US may be unprepared to take a stand, just as we are asking the international community to take a stand and as we are cautioning the Iraqi regime to consider its options," Rumsfeld said.

The Iraq resolution was expected to win overwhelming support from both parties in the House and Senate, possibly within two weeks. Although some prominent

BUSH/A18

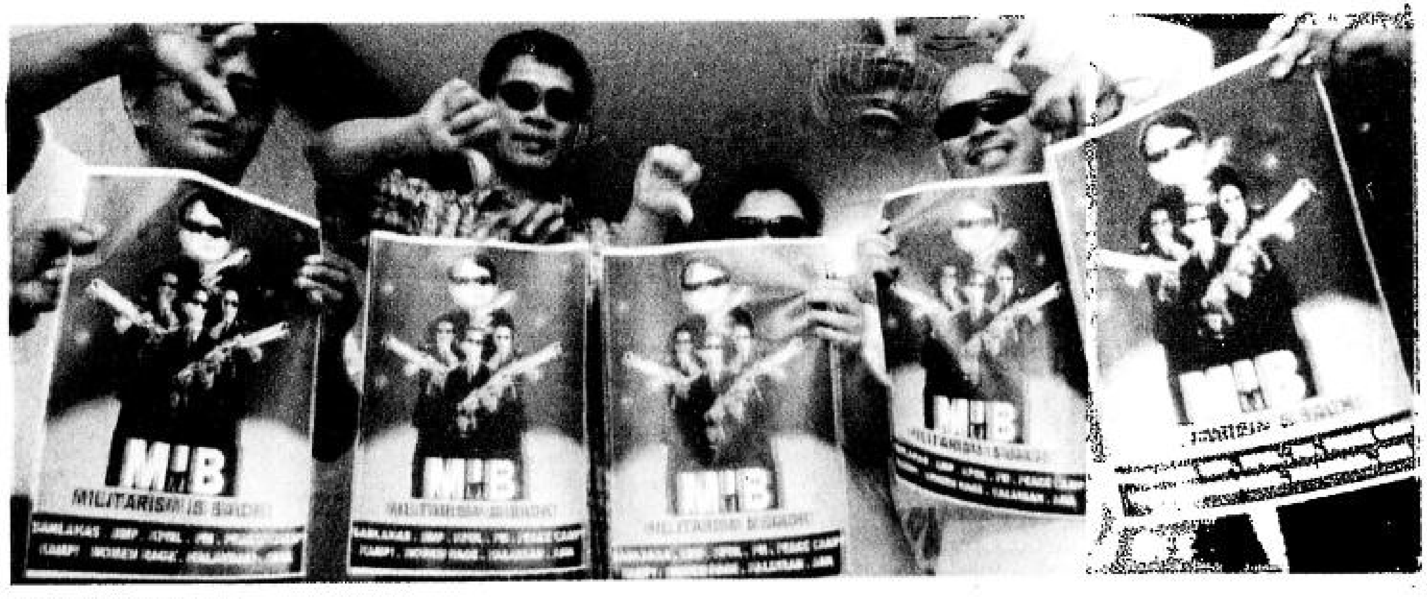
Police urged to probe killing of Baron suspect

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

POLICE are being asked to explain the "mysterious handling" of one of three slain kidnap suspects said to have been involved in the New Year's Eve killing of the spokesperson of the Young Officers Union (YOU).

Pastor "Boy" Saycon of the Council on Philippine Affairs yesterday aired the suspicion that Rodolfo "Bullet" Patinio was "used as a police asset and later killed as a kidnapper." He said Philippine National Police chief Her-

POLICE/A4



POSTER POWER
Fashion statement it is not but a protest of militant groups led by Sanlakas against the return of "militarism" and "state terrorism." DENNIS SABANGAN

Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST. The whole country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Light to moderate winds coming from the Southwest and West will prevail over Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/20/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Pimentel: Bare Climaco ties that bind

CLIMACO

By Rocky Nazareno and Agnes E. Donato

WHAT is the tie that binds some major players in the current move to have the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 contract reworked in favor of the government and the project's German partner?

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said yesterday the "interlocking interests" of some personalities should be exposed "because it would be a travesty of justice if it is proven later that those opposed to the Naia 3 project had, in some way, an interest in the outcome of the case."

Pimentel was referring to the links between Presidential adviser on strategic projects Gloria Tan Climaco, who had been assigned by President Macapagal-Arroyo to review the terminal project contract, and a number of her former associates whose names have surfaced in connection with the project.

Climaco had recommended to the President that the government take over the multi-million-dollar project from its proponent, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc., and hand over its management to Piatco's partner, Fraport AG of Germany.

Pimentel, in a statement, noted that former Climaco associates at SGV (Sycip Gorres and Velayo) and in other companies she had worked for had aligned themselves against Piatco or were involved in negotiations with Fraport.

Among them, he said, was Joanne de Asis, whose name cropped up in the exchange of letters between Climaco and Fraport. It was later learned that De Asis had worked with Climaco in the investment company Crown Equities.

The name of SGV founder Washington Sycip, Climaco's mentor, also came up when he wrote a letter to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo thanking him for accommodating the visit of a Fraport official to Malacañang.

Amazing coincidences

Pimentel said he was also surprised to learn that the former president of Asia's Emerging Dragons Co. (AEDC), the losing bidder in the Naia 3 project, was a former partner at SGV, like Climaco.

"It's a small country that we have but I'm really amazed at the coincidences," Pimentel said. "We have to tie up loose ends."

Pimentel said that given the circumstances, Climaco should consider "following the example of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez," who had inhibited himself from heading a seven-man committee tasked to review the Naia 3 contract.

Perez recused himself after learning that a partner in his former law firm, Perez-Balgos and Associates, had represented certain parties opposed to the Piatco contract.

But one civil group wants to take the Piatco investigation further.

Who's Bong Cuevas?

People's Consultative Assembly secretary general Linda Montayre dared President Macapagal to explain her relation to a certain Bong Cuevas, reportedly a brother of Emmanuel Cuevas, alleged Piatco "bagman".

"We challenge (the President) to deny under oath her association with Bong Cuevas," Montayre said at a press briefing in Quezon City.

"Is Bong Cuevas the same Cuevas who was closely associated with her during her term as head of the Garments Textile Export Board (GTEB) when she was undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry?" she asked.

"Climaco had earlier named Manny Cuevas as the "bagman" of Jason Cheng, brother of Piatco's Jefferson Cheng, who had allegedly been assigned to receive "under the table" concessions from retailers at the new airport complex.

Liongson, on the other hand, had been tagged as the "dummy" of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in Piatco. He has been missing since the Piatco controversy broke out.

But Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco said the President had no aide that name.

"Perhaps this Cuevas exists only in the fertile imagination of Montayre," Capco said. "We don't know him."

He said the PCA's claim that Cuevas was President Macapagal's link to Piatco "does not come as a surprise." *With Carlito Pablo*

3 other oil firms hike LPG prices

THREE big oil companies—Shell, Total and Caltex—yesterday followed the lead of industry leader Petron in raising prices of liquefied petroleum gas by a P1 per kilogram, effective midnight last night.

Petron raised the price of its Gasul at the same rate a full day earlier.

Retail prices of Shellane went up to about P260 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

Shell said they were due to a rise by $28.50 per metric ton in international contract prices of LPG.

Total said the increase in contract prices translated to a rise in local prices by P1.48 a kilo.

Consumers will now have to pay P276 for an 11-kg tank of Totalgaz.

The benchmark Saudi Arabia contract price was $228 per ton in August compared to $256.50 this month.

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Wanted Fil-Am arrested

AN American man of Filipino descent is to be deported to the United States to stand trial for allegedly sexually abusing two foster boys in California, the immigration bureau said Thursday.

Domingo Ramos Cruz, 56, was arrested in Angono, Rizal on Wednesday at the request of the US Embassy, the bureau said in a statement.

The US government wanted him deported to stand trial for molesting two boys who were placed under his care.

Cruz fled to the Philippines in June 1999 and the US State Department has since revoked his passport. *AFP*

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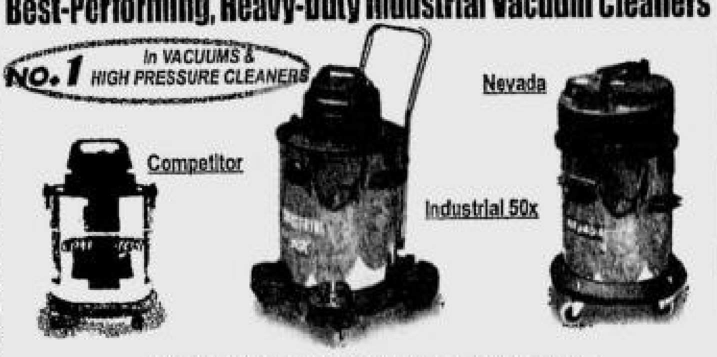

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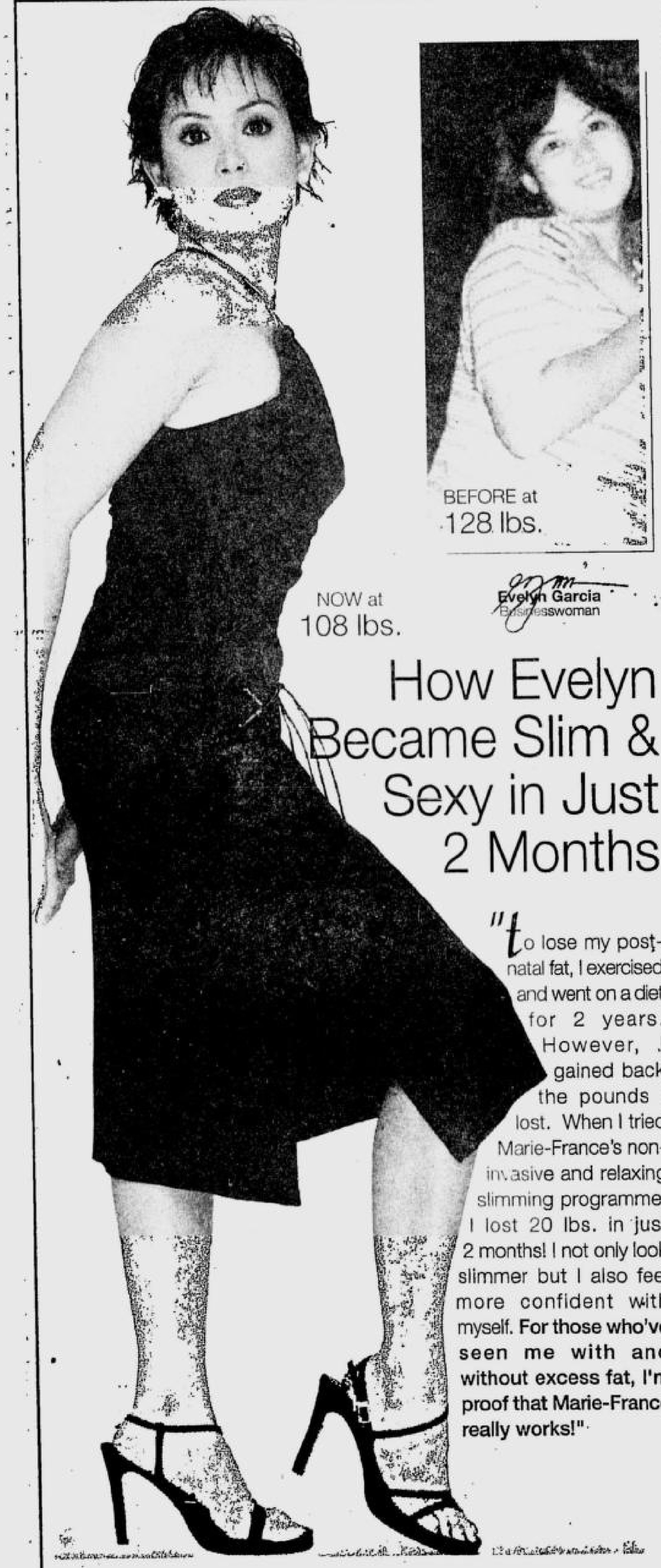
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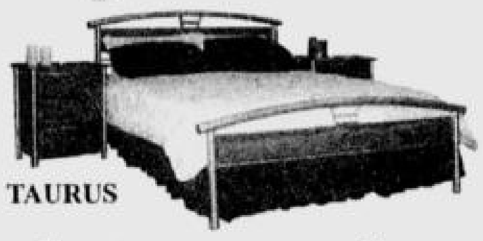
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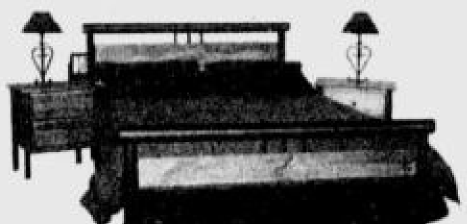
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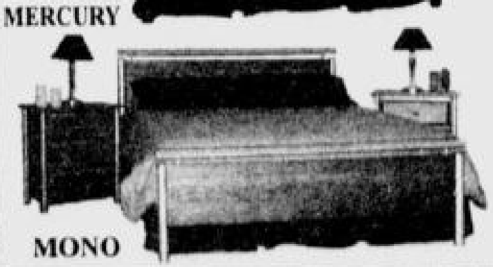
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Police urged to probe killing of Baron suspect

From page A1

mogenes Ebdane and the National Bureau of Investigation should look into the case.

Patinio, Eugene Radam and Diosdado Santos were killed Wednesday in a supposed gun battle with Cavite police and members of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergecy Response (Pacer) in General Trias. The three, supposed members of the Mostrales-Patinio kidnap-for-ransom group, allegedly served as lookouts in the murder of the self-styled YOU spokesperson, former Army Capt. Baron Cervantes.

Saycon, who was to meet with Cervantes hours before he was shot dead in Las Piñas last Dec. 31, said the killing of Patinio and the two others might have "narrowed down" the number of people involved in the Cervantes murder.

Commenting on reports that Patinio was recaptured by police on Aug. 25, Saycon said: "How could he walk in and out of Camp Crame? Why didn't police divulge this?"

Patinio, along with the late Faisal Marohombsar, leader of the Pentagon kidnap syndicate, and suspected kidnapper Abdul Macaompang, managed to escape from the heavily guarded National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force compound in Camp Crame on June 25. Marohombsar was killed in a supposed shootout with police and military men on Aug. 25 in Magallanes, Cavite.

It was only after the escape was reported that Cervantes' family learned that Patinio had been arrested, Cervantes' father Roque complained.

Ex-Marine Joseph Mostrales, for whom the kidnapping group was partly named and the confessed killer of Cervantes, has identified Senior Supt. Rafael Cardeno as the mastermind.

Cardeno, founding chair of the YOU, denies this but he has been charged with the crime along with several others. He is absent without leave from the PNP.

Beretta

But a highly placed source yesterday said a 9-mm Pietro Beretta recovered from the scene of the General Trias shootout belonged to Cardeno.

The source, who asked not to be named, said the pistol with serial number MOD 9205 had been issued to Cardeno. "That shows his links to the suspects," the source said.

Another gun found at the scene, a 9mm Daewoo with serial number BA003945, was issued to one Edwin Ancheta Rabanal of Carmona, Cavite, according to the same source.

Among the other items recovered were an M-16 baby Armalite rifle, a 9-mm Ruger pistol, two fragmentation grenades, two cellular-phone-activated bombs, two leather wallets containing a list of target victims and a camera.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, director of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said he had been sending word to Cardeno to come out of hiding.

"I told him through our acquaintance that he should surrender to me, but so far there's been no reply," Matillano said.

Cardeno had been summoned to swear to his counter-affidavit, but he did not show up for the hearing at the Department of Justice on Wednesday.

On Wednesday night, Cervantes' family called for the transfer of the three other suspects in his murder from Camp Crame to the headquarters of the Armed Forces' Intelligence Service, to ensure their safety.

But Matillano told reporters that Mostrales, Jaime Centeno and Erlindo Torres, all of whom had turned witnesses, were safe in the custody of Pacer in Camp Crame.

Suspicions were raised Wednesday that Patinio, Radam and Santos—who allegedly kidnapped businessman Jose Penano in Silang, Cavite, on Sept. 16 and released him Tuesday after receiving P2 million in ransom—were victims of a rubout.

"They were killed to silence them," said Mary "Rosebud" Ong, a former anti-narcotics agent who has testified on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged links to organized crime.

'Duterte formula'

At the House, Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said law enforcers should stop using what he called the "Duterte formula" on members of kidnap gangs.

It was a reference to Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who is known for his tough stance against criminals in his city and who drew flak from legislators and various groups for saying at an anti-crime summit last July that the summary execution of criminals remained the most effective way to curb kidnapping and the illegal drug trade.

Speaking in Filipino at a press briefing yesterday, Padilla said the supposed formula was at work "because that's what I have observed ever since President Macapagal-Arroyo designated Duterte as adviser for the anti-crime campaign."

"This has become the pattern of our police. I hope this is stopped," Padilla said, adding:

"The victims may just be fall guys." *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

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When 'Da King' meets the President

From page A1

FPJ got the loudest applause when it was his turn to go up the stage to be recognized for his winning entry.

After the short program, Ms Macapagal made a beeline for FPJ, who immediately stood up.

They shook hands, smiling expansively.

"Mabuti naman kasali ka (It's a good thing you joined us)," Ms Macapagal was overheard telling FPJ.

"Ma'am, all the time," was FPJ's reply. And that was all there was.

Ms Macapagal half turned away as if ready to go, while FPJ stood waiting for her to move on.

Photographers asked for a repeat of the FPJ-GMA handshake to which the two obliged.

Ms Macapagal went on to greet other guests including Espiridion Laxa, MMFF executive chair, who thanked the President for her grant of P50 million for the festival.

Secret exit

By then FPJ had left through the secret exit of Malacañang's Ceremonial Hall to escape reporters.

Not a few were surprised that he knew the secret exit. But then, being very close to Estrada, he probably knows the ins and outs of the Palace, observers surmise.

Before the ceremonies, FPJ told reporters he did not want to talk about his political plans.

He said this would be unethical as he was a guest in Malacañang.

In June, a congressman told the INQUIRER that Estrada had already convinced a most reluctant FPJ to be the opposition standard bearer. The former President would only admit to the INQUIRER that FPJ was "one of the probables" being considered by the opposition.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra had confirmed to the INQUIRER that that members of the opposition had agreed to meet with FPJ either last August or this month.

Afraid of winning

But at the Palace, FPJ said he was happy to stay in the movie industry.

"I came here as producer and actor. We thank the President for helping our industry. It's a big help specially to start with the (Metro) Manila Film Festival. I hope this continues," he said in Filipino.

He adamantly denied reports that he was taking speech classes in preparation for the presidential elections.

"Tuwing malapit ang kampanya, panay kasali kami ni Dolphy. (Whenever campaign time nears, Dolphy and I are always rumored to be running)," he said.

Dolphy, who produced another MMFF entry, Home Alone The Riber, said he was sure that FPJ would not run.

"Based on what I know of Ronnie, he's afraid of winning the election. He's not used to politics."

"But I don't think he'll run. I don't know if he'll change his mind but I don't think he will. I've asked him and he said he won't run. He doesn't like politics," he said.

Ms Macapagal awarded P100,000 each to the scriptwriters of the 10 chosen MMFF entries.

She also awarded P500,000 to the Film Academy of the Philippines' best film for July, Regal Films' Pakisabi Mo Na Lang Na Mahal Ko Siya; to Star Cinema's "Jologs," the adjudged best film for August.

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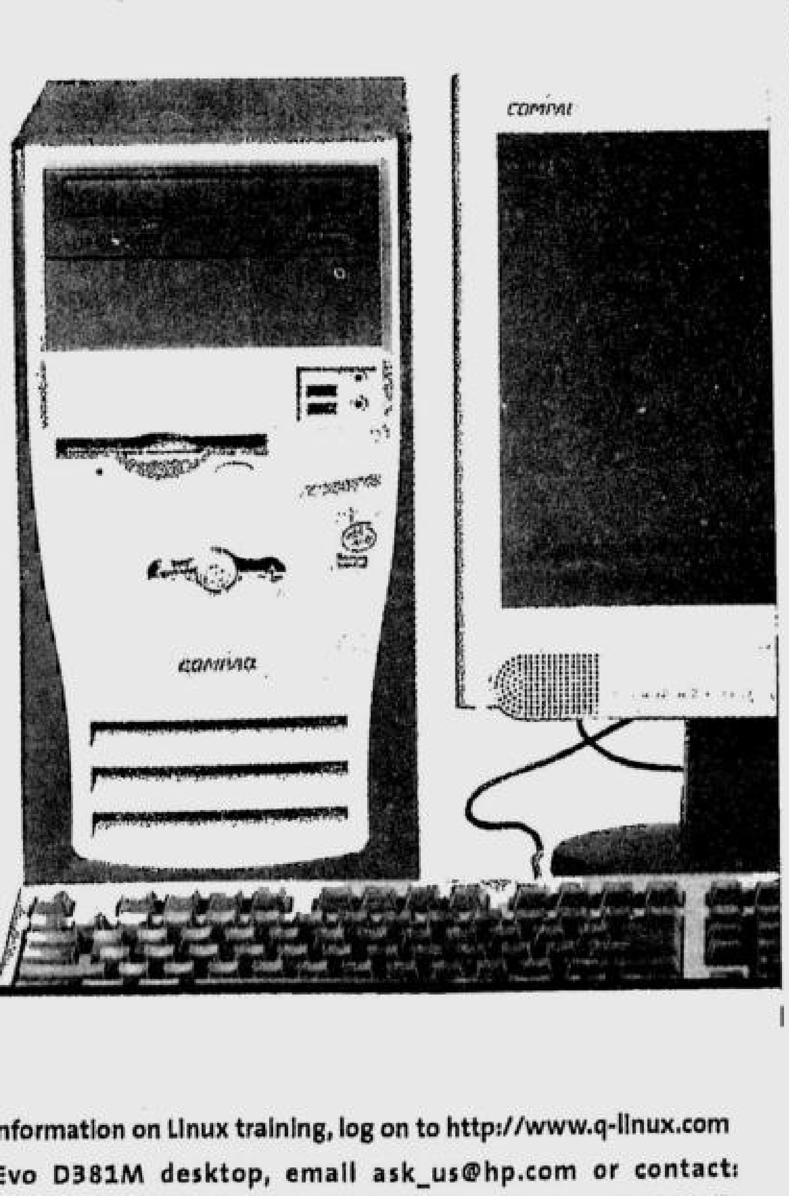

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Lawmaker . . .

From page A1

plants closed because of the danger they pose to public health and the environment.

Enrile claimed the other day that the Lopez-controlled Manila Electric Co. was behind a media and legislative campaign aimed at closing down the Calaca coal-fired plant in Batangas to avoid paying P8 billion in penalties.

Rosales urged the former senator to substantiate his allegations. "He has to prove his point," Rosales said in a phone interview, as she insisted that the Calaca plant and other similar plants in the country actually deserved to be closed down.

"By itself, coal-fired plants under Napocor are malperforming and emitting toxic emissions," she said. The National Power Corp. runs two of seven coal-fired plants in the country, located in Calaca, Batangas and Masinloc, Zambales.

But while Rosales said she was withholding judgment on Enrile's claims, the president of Meralco was nothing if not categorical.

"Former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's statements are not only unfair, they are also without basis," Jesus Francisco said in a phone interview.

Francisco said Meralco was not behind any anti-coal drive. "We assured Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. of this in a meeting last week," he said. "I told (Napocor officer in charge/president) Roland S. Quilala the same thing a few days ago.

"In fact, one of our power suppliers runs on coal," Francisco said, referring to Quezon Power Ltd.'s 400-megawatt Mauban plant.

Anti-coal campaign

On Wednesday, Enrile said in a press briefing that the campaign to discredit coal as a fuel for power plants was really aimed at closing down Napocor's 600-MW plant in Calaca.

Enrile said Meralco wanted the Calaca plant closed to decongest the Batangas-Manila transmission line, thus allowing First Gas Power Corp.'s 500-MW San Lorenzo natural gas plant to run.

Meralco has 25-year contracts with First Gas for the supply of electricity generated by the San Lorenzo and the 1,000-MW Sta. Rita plants, both in Batangas.

Enrile also accused Meralco of scheming with First Gas to overprice fuel charges and to hike capacity fees by up to P70 billion in the next 25 years.

But Ivanna de la Peña, Meralco's chief of utility economics, said in a statement there was no such escalation of capacity fees and no double charging on the cost of natural gas.

"It is unfortunate that former Senator Enrile has been fed erroneous information to put (in) a bad light a power project that is in support of the government's thrust toward energy self-reliance," Dela Peña said.

In a radio interview yesterday, however, Enrile said he had copies of the contracts and that he would stand by his statements.

PPA increase

Meanwhile, the consumer group People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power) lashed out at Meralco for an 18-centavo rise in the purchased power adjustment (PPA) fee.

Power spokesperson Renato Reyes said this was the first time the PPA went up since President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Napocor to reduce its purchase power cost adjustment (PPCA) by an average of 85 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

Napocor's PPCA covers for the cost of electricity bought from independent producers. Distributors like Meralco then pass this on to end-consumers as the PPA.

"The PPA in our electric bill for the period Aug. 6 to Sept. 6 showed an 18-centavo increase from P1.75 to P1.93 per kWh," Reyes said in a telephone interview.

He said his household consumed less electricity last month yet their bill increased by almost P100.

"The increase of 18 centavos may appear small but this translates to profits reaching P122 million a month or P1.4 billion a year based on Meralco's sales of 6.3 billion kWh," Reyes said.

But Dela Peña said that the PPA fluctuated every month depending on changes in the following: fuel costs and foreign exchange rates; and the rate of dispatch of their independent power producers' plants.

No shows

At the Senate, franchise committee chair Sen. Joker Arroyo lost his temper after Perez, Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Fe Brin and Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Co. (PSALM) president Edgardo del Fonso all snubbed yesterday's hearing on the Meralco franchise.

"How can they not be here when Meralco supplies 70 percent of the power in Luzon?" an irate Arroyo told those present at the Senate hearing. *With a report from Rocky Nazareno*

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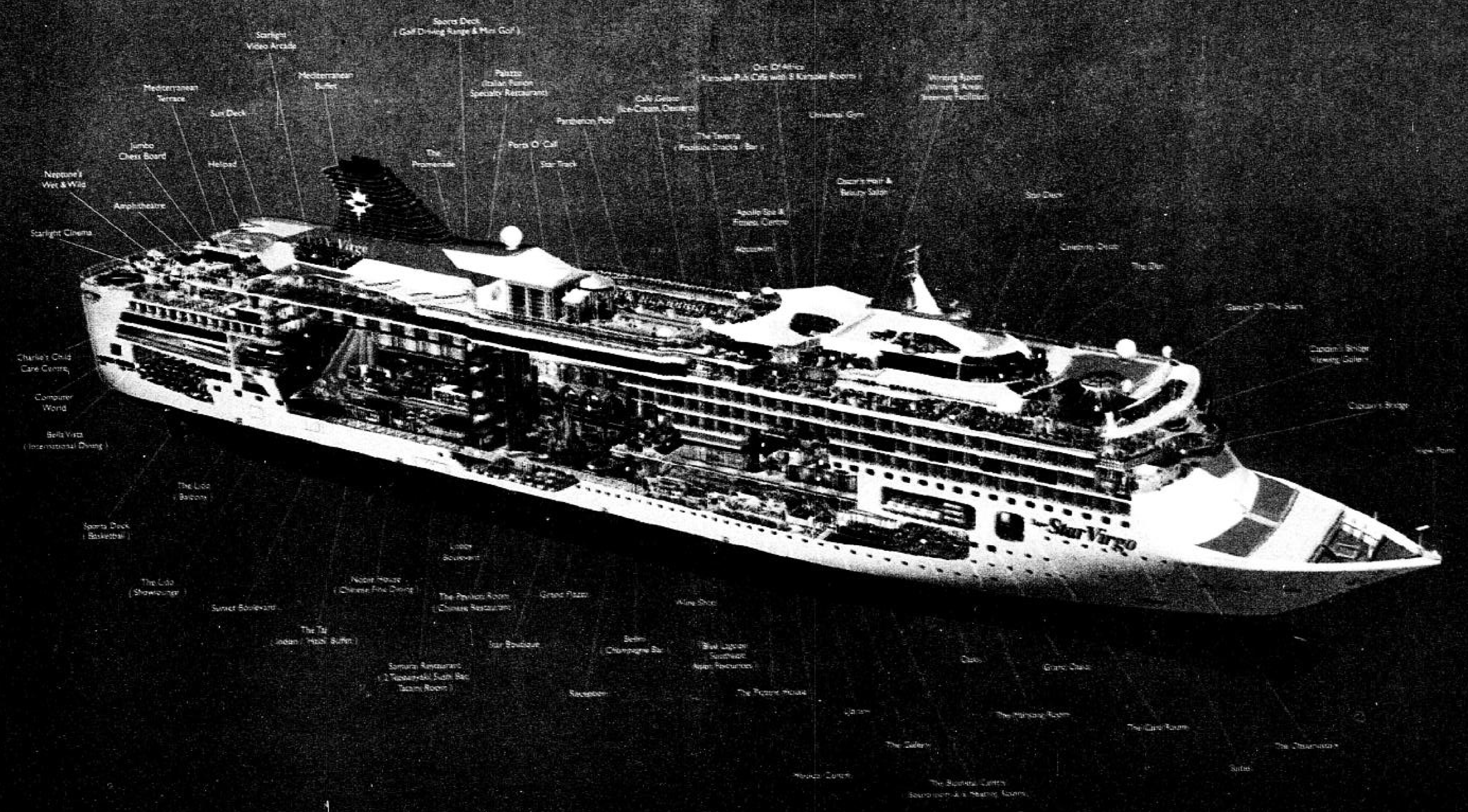
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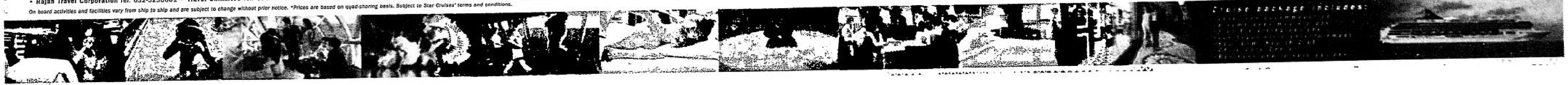
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Talks for release of 4 MSU teachers bog down

ILIGAN CITY—Negotiations for the release of the four teachers of the Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi City, who were kidnapped on Sept. 6 by a group of disgruntled university security guards, has bogged down.

MSU President Camar Umpa told the INQUIRER he was informed of the development of the negotiations by the Lanao del Sur provincial crisis committee headed by Governor Mamintal Adiong.

Umpa said the kidnappers have made at least four demands but there was no mention of ransom money.

He said one of the demands was his ouster as MSU president.

Umpa said he could not just step down from his position because he has a fixed term of six years.

Umpa hinted that the kidnapping could be part of efforts to soil his image.

Luz Castillon, 53; Editha Buntilao, 50; Emma Karaan, 43; and Salvacion Mikin, 55, all of Iligan City were taken hostage as the Saudi Ambassador was scheduled to visit Marawi City. *Christine Godinez-Ortega, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'JIHAD' BOMB PLOT

Indon terror suspect 'sings'

AN INDONESIAN operative of a radical Muslim organization has told Philippine police of his group's plan to bomb Western targets as part a *jihad* (holy war) intended to establish an independent Islamic state in the region.

Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, a self-confessed member of the Jemaah Islamiah (JI) group, and jailed in Manila for illegal possession of explosives, made the disclosure in a statement to police in July, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters yesterday.

He linked two alleged JI leaders to the plot—Riduan Isamudin, also known as Hambali, an Indonesian Muslim preacher wanted in connection with a series of Christmas Eve church bombings in 2000, and Faiz Abu Bakar Batana, whom Al-Ghozi said was a Malaysian financier of JI.

Malaysia and Singapore have detained dozens of people on suspicion of being part of terror plots hatched by JI, a group they say has links with Osama bin Laden and his al Qaida network, blamed for last year's Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Police arrested Al-Ghozi in January after seizing 1.2 tons of explosives in General Santos City. They said he had bought the explosives to use in a supposed JI plot to bomb the US and Israeli embassies in Singapore.

"The people who ordered me to buy the explosives were Faiz and Hambali to be used in the jihad program of our organization in Southeast Asia," Al-Ghozi said in his statement.

"Faiz is a leader and a financier of the group . . . The reason I came to the Philippines was to buy the explosives to be used in pursuing our program. The money I used to buy the explosives came from Faiz and Hambali." He said his orders from Fazi and Hambali were to buy "five to seven tons of explosives which would be brought to Singapore for use there."

Looking for contacts

Besides buying explosives, Al-Ghozi said that another reason he was sent to the Philippines was "to look for contacts for our planned independent Islamic State."

His statement did not specify which territories would form the envisaged homeland. Media reports have said they would cover parts of the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Before coming to the Philippines, Al-Ghozi said he visited Singapore and, with some companions, "went to places where the embassies of the United States and Israel are located because these would be our prime targets".

The arrests of Al-Ghozi in the Philippines, and of 13 Islamic militants in Singapore as well as dozens in Malaysia, apparently scuttled the bomb plot.

Al-Ghozi was convicted in April of illegal possession of explosives and of forging travel documents and received prison sentences of 12 and six years respectively. *Reuters*

Gloria renews support for war vs terror

By Carlito Pablo

THREE days after flip-flopping anew on her support to the United States stance against Iraq, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday reassured the US of her government's commitment to support Washington's campaign against global terrorism.

President Macapagal gave such guarantee to visiting US Treasury Undersecretary for International Affairs John Taylor in a meeting in Malacañang that was also attended by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Finance Secretary Jose Camacho.

"The President emphasized our support for the US in the fight against global terrorism," Camacho said in a briefing. He did not provide details.

On Sept. 17, President Macapagal announced that the "Philippines is prepared to extend political, security and humanitarian assistance to the US in the pursuit of its most vital interest, which coincide with our own vital interests, to defeat terrorism."

"These policies have been conveyed officially by (Foreign) Secretary Blas Ople to US Secretary of State Colin Powell and shall be the basis of our position which Secretary Ople will state before the UN (United Nations) General Assembly," she said then.

The President came out with such policy statement a day after the Asian Wall Street Journal criticized the Philippines in its Sept. 16 editorial for withdrawing its earlier offer for the use of country's air space by the US.

The Asian Wall Street Journal described the withdrawal as an "affront to an ally" and a "personal slap" to Bush.

The government earlier offered the use of the country's territory and air space by the US in case it launches military action against Iraq even though the US has made no official request.

Malacañang, however, later issued a policy statement on Sept. 14 stating that the country will allow the use of its air space only for "humanitarian" purpose and only if the UN sanctions such military action.

In the same briefing, Camacho said that President Macapagal and Taylor also discussed the $5 billion "Millennium Challenge" aid package being prepared by the US for developing countries.

"We are hopeful that the Philippines would be able to qualify," Camacho said.

Bomb rips through Zambo bus; 2 wounded

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A bomb exploded inside a bus while another was discovered in a bus here yesterday morning.

The first bomb went off inside an empty bus at the crowded provincial bus terminal here around 8:20 a.m. yesterday. A security guard was about to pick up a bag left aboard a Mary May Transit bus, which had just arrived from Dipolog City, when it exploded.

Police said the guard sustained injuries.

About 30 minutes later, police officers manning a checkpoint discovered another bomb in another Mary May bus bound for this city. The bomb was later defused. *Ed General, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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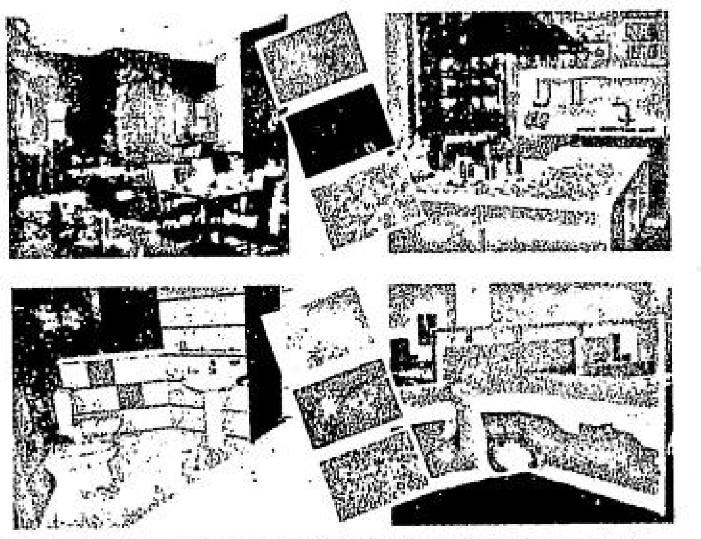

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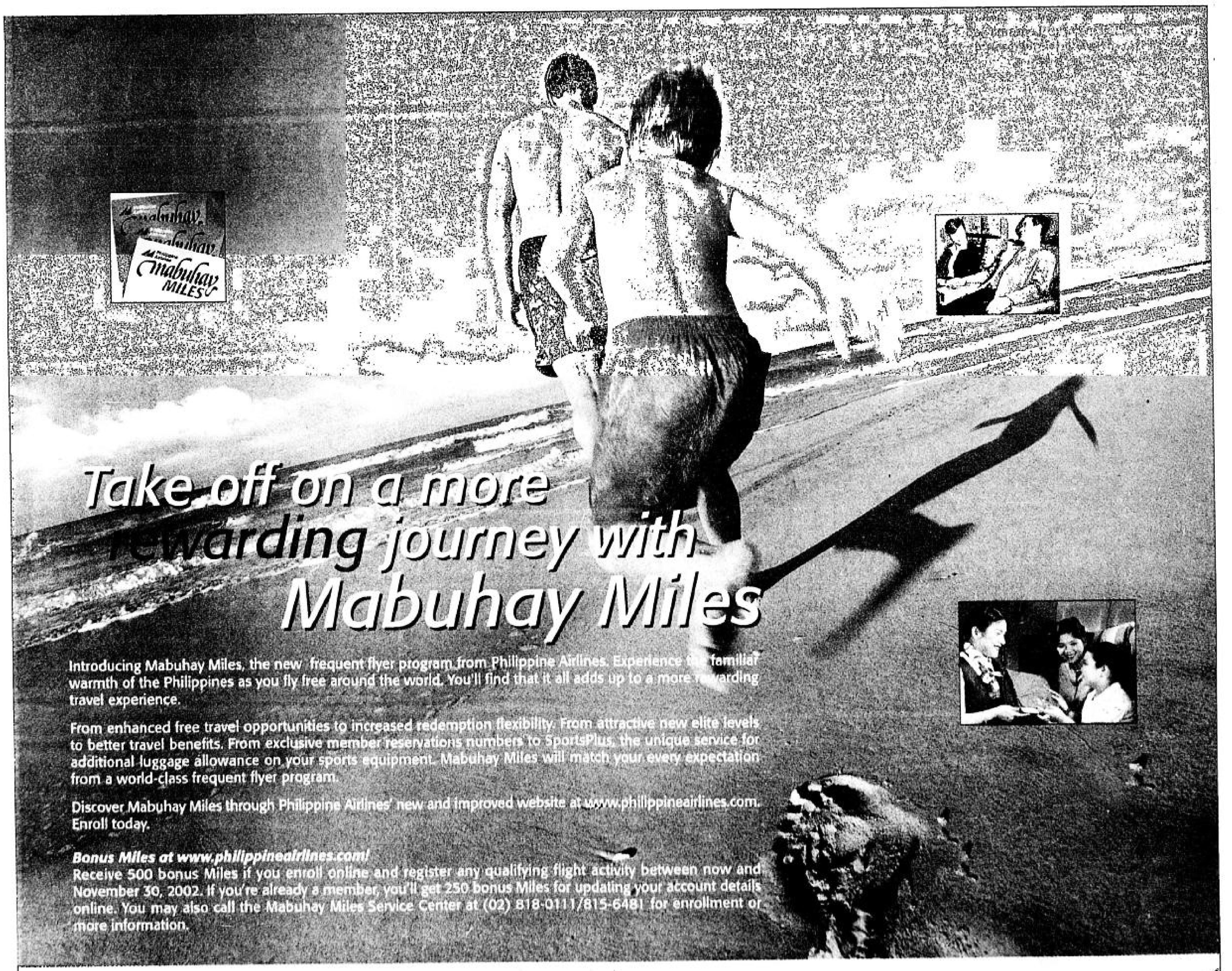

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'THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING'

Trust cops, Ledesma urges kidnap victims

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SPEAKING from his family's recent horrific experience, Negros Occidental Rep. Jules Ledesma said kidnap victims can trust the police to rescue them.

Ledesma was in Malacañang yesterday with his recently released children Christina Julieta, 10, and Julio Carlos, 5, to visit with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The two children had been kidnapped but were quickly released after the application of a "tried and tested formula" against kidnappings. Actress Assunta da Rossi, the widowed congressman's girlfriend, was with them.

"The (kidnap) victims (have) to realize that I was cooperating (with the police) all the way. Do not be afraid to cooperate with the government agencies. They know what they're doing," Ledesma told reporters who interviewed him after the meeting with Ms Macapagal.

He said he was in contact with the police within 15 minutes of learning of his children's abduction last Friday morning on a busy San Juan street.

"We have very good people. The people who helped us admitted to me, however, that they did not have enough equipment, especially software," he said.

He declined to give other details of the police operation, but admitted he had been asked for a "substantial" ransom.

Once again, he refused to say if he paid out any money, saying this was an "operational matter."

He said that in due time he would satisfy the curiosity of his colleagues in Congress about the "tried and tested formula" that was used in his case.

"For me to share operational information right now would not be fair because even as we speak there are other cases that are still live," he said.

While Ledesma was being interviewed, his children and Da Rossi were a few meters away chatting occasionally.

"They're fine. They went to school already," he said when asked how his kids were doing.

He said he wanted to speak to San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito and school officials about clearing traffic choke points around the schools. His children were abducted while on their to school last week by armed men who were riding in two vehicles.

He said the kidnappers were organized. "So the deterrent is to make ourselves more organized."

He said he presented to President Macapagal his idea for an "information exchange" to be run by a non-government organization.

The exchange, he said, would collate information about prior kidnappings to help in the solution of ongoing cases.

Ransom not part of tried and tested formula—Velasco

By Alcuin Papa

NATIONAL Capital Region police chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco said yesterday the payment of ransom for the release of kidnap victims was not part of the "tried and tested formula" much touted in the safe release Tuesday of the young children of Rep. Jules Ledesma.

At a news conference at Central Police District headquarters in Camp Karingal, Quezon City, Velasco outlined the three elements of the formula—coordination between police and relatives of the victims, the confidence placed by the relatives in the police, and a news blackout.

"The payment of ransom is not part of the tried and tested formula," Velasco said.

He said Ledesma's colleagues in Congress who thought ransom had been paid to obtain the release of Christina Julieta, 10, and Julio Carlos, 5, "had no basis for their conclusion."

Some senators and congressmen have called for a probe into the Ledesma kidnapping and the "tired and tested formula" that purportedly brought it to a successful resolution.

Velasco's "tried and tested formula" sounded similar to the formula outlined by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former PNP chief, to the INQUIRER Tuesday night.

Ransom possible

Velasco admitted, however, it was possible that Ledesma "was not divulging everything" about the kidnapping and he had paid ransom.

But he reiterated that the formula had worked in previous kidnapping cases, including the recent abduction of four-year-old Patricia Chong and her nanny.

Velasco did not elaborate, but in the Chong case lawmen had surrounded the kidnappers' Cavite hideout, when they were surprised to discover that escaped Pentagon gang leader Faisal Marohombsar was in the house.

Marohombsar was shot to death as he tried to escape, and Chong and her nanny were rescued unharmed.

Also yesterday, Velasco defended San Juan police chief Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia from allegations his men had been slow to respond to the Ledesma kidnapping on their turf.

Velasco said the San Juan police responded to the abduction in five minutes.

He said, however, that De Gracia was facing "one more strike before he is out."

San Juan was hit by an P8-million bank robbery and then the Ledesma abduction happened. Velasco said the PNP has a policy called "Strike Three" where three big criminal incidents in one locality could lead to the relief of the local police commander.

DAR workers want Braganza suspended

THE LEGAL and word war between Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza and his agency's workers union continued to heat up as employees of the Department of Agrarian Reform yesterday called on Malacañang to suspend Braganza while he was being investigated by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC).

The DAR Employees Association (DAREA), in a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sept. 16, said Braganza's continued stay in office "would cause further loss or misuse of government resources as well as jeopardize the retrieval of pertinent documents that must be preserved untampered."

The DAREA has filed a complaint against Braganza before the PAGC for allegedly spending P50 million for the celebration of the 14th anniversary of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in July 10.
Gerald Lacuarta

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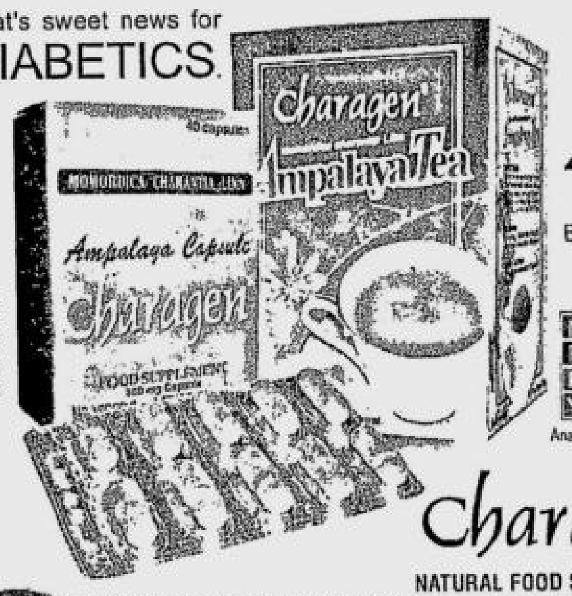
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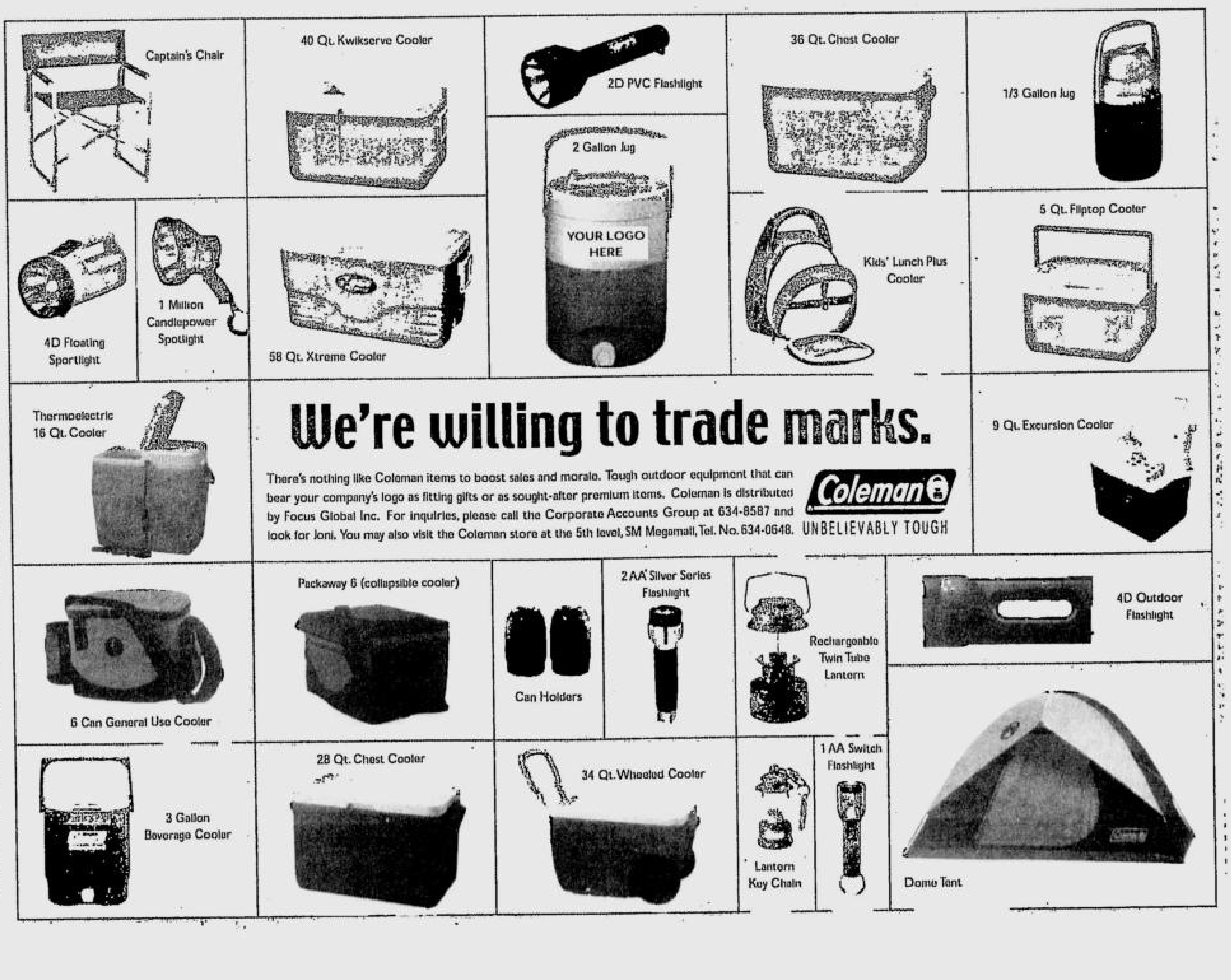
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OPINION

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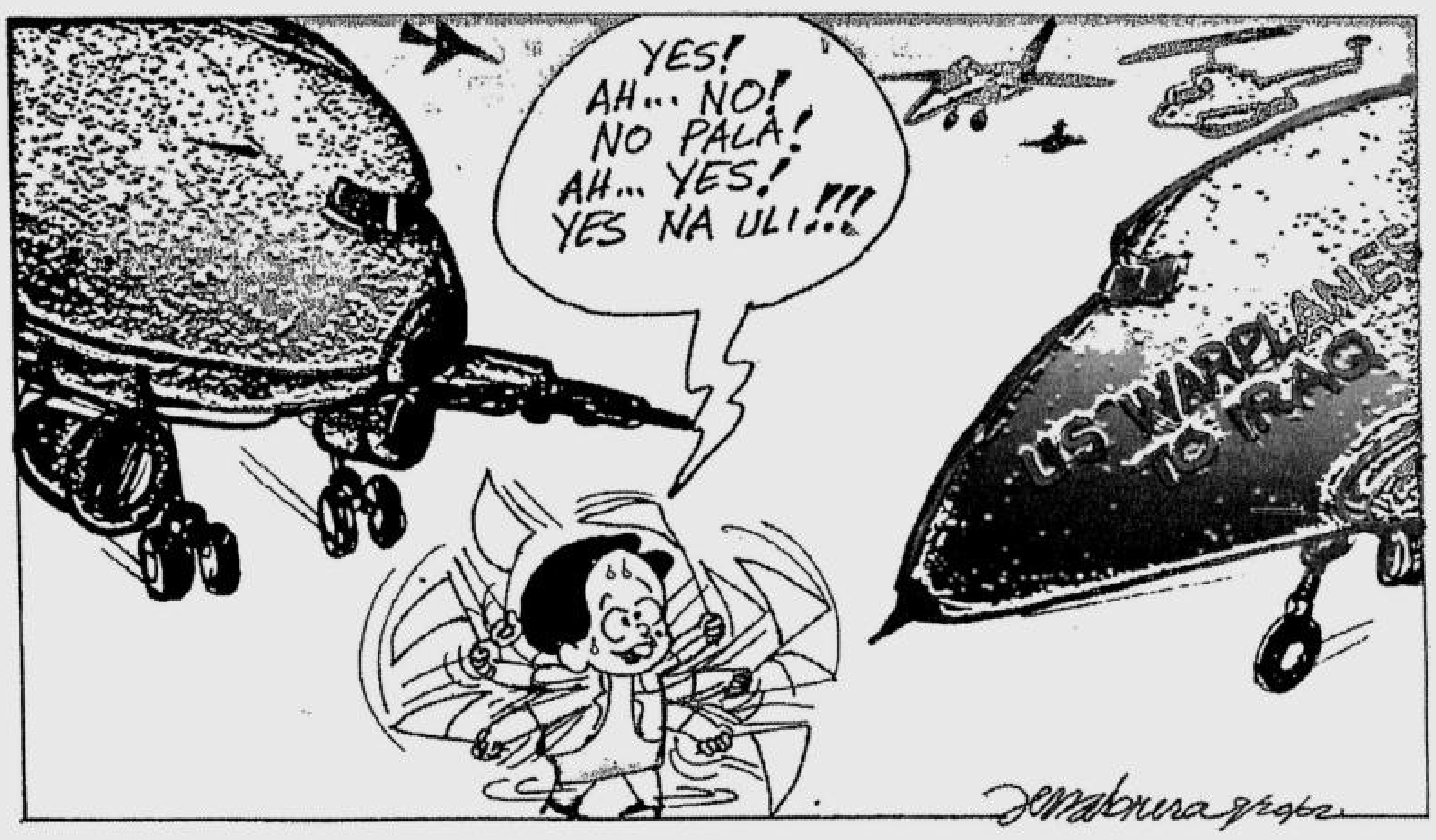

YES! AH... NO! NO PALA! AH... YES! YES NA ULI!!!
US WARPLANES TO IRAQ

Blink or wink?

Editorial

DID Saddam Hussein really blink or did he just wink? Faced with the threat of war, Iraq announced on Monday that it would allow United Nations representatives to resume inspection of sites suspected of being used for the manufacture or stockpiling of nuclear, chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction. The inspections were part of the conditions set by the UN for the lifting of sanctions, following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent rout of its forces by a US-led multinational force during the 1991 Gulf war. They were suspended in 1998 amid charges of noncooperation by Iraq and countercharges of spying by US agents serving as UN inspectors.

After the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center and part of the Pentagon, US President George W. Bush condemned Iraq as part of an "axis of evil" that was a threat to world peace and civilization. Since then US officials have accused Iraq of supporting the al-Qaida terrorist network of Osama bin Laden as well as plotting terrorist attacks against American targets. More recently, the United States warned that Iraq has stepped up its quest for nuclear arms. Last week, Bush told the UN that unless Iraq allowed UN inspectors back and forced Saddam to disarm and stop supporting terrorism, US military action would be "unavoidable."

After some frantic negotiations, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the Arab League were able to convince Iraq to let the UN inspectors resume their investigation—this time without conditions. That gesture, however was not enough to placate the United States, which dismissed it as just another tactic to stop the UN Security Council from approving the US proposal to get into action.

Of course, the United States has every reason to doubt Iraq's intentions. Since the end of the Gulf war, Iraq has played cat and mouse with the UN inspectors. And now its offer to allow UN inspection has virtually dashed all US hopes of getting the UN behind its real objectives of not only disarming Iraq but also removing Saddam.

For the majority of members of the UN Security Council, the main goal has always been to send the inspectors back in order to stop Saddam from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. The United States wants to move much farther than that, insisting that Iraq spell out in clear terms how it will comply with the UN resolutions and that the UN specify the consequences of non-compliance.

For now, it seems clear that the United States will not get what it wants. Russia, which has veto power in the Security Council, has said it sees no need for the kind of resolution the United States has in mind. France, another permanent member of the Security Council, leans toward the Russian position.

Saddam probably thinks he has outwitted the United States again. And he is right to a certain extent. But he should not push his luck. The United States is pushing hard, and the UN may not be in the mood to lean over backwards if he tries his old tricks again. He has bought time, and he better use it to clean up his act.

On the other hand, Bush should give his bellicose rhetoric a rest. The relief that greeted Iraq's decision to allow the resumption of UN inspections only shows that the world doesn't share his lust for war. Few other nations would applaud a US decision to go to war with Iraq without more concrete proof that it poses a grave threat to the security of the United States and the rest of the world. The UN inspectors should be able to establish once and for all if such suspicions are true. Until then the United States can only make war at the risk of behaving like an international bully and a rogue state.

Winning vs terrorism

Foreign Comment

THERE is much to admire in the United States. It is a resourceful, energetic and optimistic country. If it had not been the land of opportunity, there would not have been so many victims of last year's attacks from around the world. At home, it has shown the resilience to recover. It has still to demonstrate it can respond positively in the wider world. Unless it does, sympathy and support will diminish.

A lot of anger is directed at America not because of what it stands for but because it fails to extend freedom and opportunity to peoples whose repressive governments it props up for geopolitical gain. Mr. Bush will not win the war on terror until he addresses that fundamental problem. Failure to do so will merely breed the fanaticism that exploded on the United States a year ago. Mr. Bush has the power to make a difference. If he makes that the priority, the world could be a safer and a better place. What better tribute could there be to the victims of Sept. 11?

The Herald (Glasgow, Scotland)

Dear BF: Finish Congressional Ave. first

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE DECISION of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando to open up roads of private subdivisions for public use to ease traffic congestion is sure to touch off another controversy. The roads of subdivisions not yet turned over to the government are maintained with private funds contributed by the residents. They also pay the salaries of security guards to maintain security inside the subdivision. They also pay for the street lights, garbage collection, cleanliness and upkeep of the subdivision. The government should be doing all that in exchange for the taxes the residents pay, but it doesn't. As a result, the residents have to fend for themselves. Isn't it unfair for Fernando to open these roads for public vehicular traffic?

Families invested plenty of money to buy lots and build homes in these subdivisions for security, peace and quiet. With the spate of kidnappings and robberies, who can sleep peacefully at home in a subdivision that is open to buses, jeepneys, tricycles, cargo trucks and all other types of vehicles at all hours? Think of the noise and air pollution. That is why residents pay good money to homeowners' associations to buy protection from all these.

Of course some homeowners' associations have gone overboard in regulating traffic through their villages, extorting onerous sticker fees from motorists. Some homeowners' associations have become money-making machines, extorting even more onerous "construction fees" (as much as P250,000 per house), from, ironically, their own residents who are already paying for other fees.

One association in Fairview even closed its main gate and rented the street to wash-your-car and *carinderia* owners to force residents to pay their monthly dues. That is clearly an abuse of the association's authority which the government should not let pass.

And of course Fernando is right that, legally, there is no private road. And his motive in opening up private subdivision roads, like clearing the sidewalks of sidewalk vendors and all other obstructions, is the public good. If public vehicles can pass through heretofore private subdivision roads, won't that ease the load on public roads and allow traffic to move faster?

Yes, but first things first. Before encroaching on the rights of legitimate homeowners in private subdivisions, the government must first make sure that the public roads are in good condition and free of all obstructions to make traffic move faster. And it must pay for the maintenance of the private roads, as well as the street lights, garbage collection and, most of all, provide security for the residents.

Also, the government must see to it that all other possible public routes are completed and open. For example, the government spent hundreds of millions of pesos to widen Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. It built a subway from Batasan Road to Commonwealth, beside the Sandigabanyan building, for traffic to move faster. Did all that investment and construction make traffic move faster? Hardly.

The sidewalk (or street) vendors who were forced to move back to the sidewalk when Commonwealth was being widened, have now moved back to the street, thus constricting traffic again. At Manggahan, further on Commonwealth, the government spent more millions for a public market for the sidewalk vendors. Did the vendors move to the market? No sir. They're back out on the street, reducing the eight-lane Commonwealth to only two lanes on each side.

At the vicinity of the intersection with Tandang Sora, at the approach to the flyover, vendors have also invaded the streets. The exit of Tandang Sora to Commonwealth has also been widened, but that intersection is always blocked by jeepneys and buses waiting for passengers, ignoring the yellow boxes painted at that intersection. Worse, jeepneys use Tandang Sora itself as a terminal, double-parked on both sides while waiting for passengers. Although this is a very busy intersection, parking is allowed on both sides of the street, although the wet market there has a parking lot. Where are Fernando's MMDA storm troopers and traffic policemen and traffic aides? Nowhere. In the rare times that some are there, they don't seem to know what to do. They just take shelter in the shade of the flyover.

A big part of the traffic load of Commonwealth can be relieved if only Congressional Avenue is completed. This runs parallel to Commonwealth and Quezon Avenue and exits at Edsa, opposite the Muñoz market. Only 2.6 kilometers remain to be finished. But that remaining portion has remained unfinished for many years. There is no appropriation in the budget for it. The Department of Public Works and Highways and the Quezon City government do not press Congress to appropriate any. It is the residents of the subdivisions along this unfinished portion who are working to generate funds for it. That is the only reason why a contractor is slowly, very slowly, doing some work.

The senators and congressmen living in these subdivisions and who would be directly benefited by its completion, don't even contribute a pittance from their pork barrel for Congressional Avenue. All of them, with the exception of Rep. Chuck Mathay who doesn't even live there.

Before the government can have any moral right to open the roads of the private subdivisions in Quezon City, it must first finish Congressional Avenue. That street alone can divert much of the traffic away from Commonwealth and Quezon Avenues and ease traffic congestion.

Thirty years ago, tomorrow

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

FOR THOSE who were not born on or before martial law, who have not heard of martial law, or who have forgotten martial law, here are reminders of it. These are excerpts from "Dead Aim," which tells how Ferdinand Marcos wrought the deed:

Next day, there was silence.

It was a silence that engulfed the country like floodwater. Filipinos, who woke up each day to the lively chatter of radio commentators, found only static in the air. Turning the dial did not help. The radio sets gave off only static, or strange bleeping and screeching sounds, that reminded old folk of Japanese times, when those who managed to hide radio sets tried desperately to catch broadcasts from across the seas on short wave. There were no newspapers as well, an occurrence that took on the aspects of a catastrophe. For residents of Manila, who were used to hearing a cacophony of sounds building to a crescendo at crack of dawn, it felt disorienting, like floating on air, or groping in the dark. It might have been the end of the world, as the pious had predicted during the height of the rains. It was.

In lieu of news, there were rumors. And quite grim ones too. One rumor had it the military had mounted a coup and was holding Marcos prisoner in Malacanang. Another, far more unpleasant one, was that people were being shot everywhere. A friend of Cesar Espiritu brought bad news, which brought a pall to their gathering. He had just left Cecile Guidote, who was rehearsing with a group at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, he said, and she was crying. She was supposed to appear with Joseph Estrada, but it did not happen. It was not because the show had been cancelled, it was because Joseph Estrada was dead. He had resisted arrest earlier that day, and the Metrocom had gunned him down.

"But," protested someone, an entire edifice of myth having just crumbled before his eyes, "he is supposed to beat everybody to the draw!"

It was almost 7:00 p.m. when Marcos finally appeared on TV. He wore a grave expression, made all the graver by the black-and-white television sets that most households had then. Awash in light, while his aides watched in awe at the wings in the dark, he intoned: 'We have, with one swift blow, pushed away the dark of night.' And he went on to talk about how he had done so, punctuating his statements with short karate chops in the air. Darkness had completely fallen on the land when he finished. Over at the Convention Hall, someone whispered: "Big Brother is watching. And it's not yet 1984!" In Malacanang, Imelda Marcos watched the proceedings approvingly from the wings. "Ah," she gloated, 'how easy it is to declare martial law!"

"It was surprising how the people submitted to martial law," says Ronaldo Zamora. "Everyone was surprised, even Marcos. He had not expected that at all.

"You remember that one of the first things the soldiers did was to bring down young men to the camps and cut their hair. We were against that. Before martial law, we were given a whole string of sociology and psychology about the Filipinos being prone to resist these things. Professors were telling us: 'You can do many things to the Filipino, but one thing you must never do. You must not touch him. The Filipino is very sensitive to touch. You can insult him, you can order him around, but don't touch him. He will take it very personally, he will never forget it.' So we were pleading with the military to stop this business of giving haircuts.

"But we were wrong. No one complained. No one resisted. No one did anything about it. It was like martial law itself. In the end, you could say that Marcos did it because it was so easy."

"Marcos became greedy," says Blas Ople. "It was just supposed to be two years. That was what he kept telling us at the start. I was there during the 10th anniversary of martial law when former Speaker Cornelio Villareal reminded Marcos of it. It was a light-hearted gathering, everyone was in high spirits. And at one point, Villareal joked. 'O, padre,' he said to Marcos, 'I thought you said it would only be two years.'

"You had us fooled."

"It is hard," says Jose Diokno, "for someone who has never been imprisoned to understand the degradation that detention imposes upon a man and his family, particularly on one who knows that he is not a criminal, and that he is being held simply because he stood up to the powers that be. Brutal and inhuman treatment often breaks a prisoner's body or mind--or both. Even when he is not beaten up or tortured, but, on the contrary, is treated with humanity and respect for his dignity, life behind bars or barbed wire remains such a psychic trauma. Detention is more than stone walls, barbed wire and iron bars; guard towers and guards; jailer and jailed; and seemingly senseless rules and regulation. Detention is boredom and loneliness; loss of privacy and regimentation; frustration and impotence; periods of hope followed by hopelessness, like stormy waves that can drown a man."

The nation would eventually see that the trick was not just to seek release from prison, it was to find freedom even within the pit of prison. It was to refuse to be cowed, to refuse to be humiliated, to refuse to give up the last shred of dignity—even at cost of life itself. That was the key to freeing oneself from the walls of prison. That was the key to freeing the nation from the walls of prison.

The Filipino would lose many things from the start of martial law. But above all he would lose the most precious thing he owned, his freedom. Freedom was a word that had been used before martial law so freely, and it was a word that would be used after martial law so freely. But during martial law, it would echo with the profoundest meaning. In the darkness of solitary confinement, through the bars of a small window in his prison cell, the Filipino would behold it in all its dazzling radiance. He would glimpse it and clasp it—as Amado Hernandez, the great Filipino poet, had once said: "Like a patch of open sky."

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Europe and multilateralism

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

MADRID—On the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, the United States went on high alert, which was the banner story of all the main newspapers in Europe. But in contrast to the edgy and tense atmosphere in the United States, the Europeans were less nervous and more relaxed.

The sight of empty airports in the United States, where few people took the risk of flying, was in stark contrast to the busy European airports where people were traveling under normal circumstances. The flights, however, between Europe and American cities were less brisk than those for other destinations.

A year after Sept. 11, airport security measures on the continent are less stringent than those in the United States and air travelers here are not hassled with such precautions in America where random tests require even VIPs to take off their shoes to be sure they are not embedded with miniature explosives or biological germs.

While the contrast in the mood in Europe with that in the United States over the dangers of another terrorist attack is emphasized in the more relaxed atmosphere of air travel here, the transatlantic gap is further widening over the campaign of President George W. Bush to galvanize the European democracies behind the plan to launch a military attack on Iraq.

Unlike in the 1990 Gulf War, when the US-led coalition had wider support from the European allies and when even Russia and China, both members of the United Nations Security Council, did not oppose the council resolution allowing military action against Iraq, the Europeans, except Britain, are watering down US plans to launch an attack on Iraq. A year ago, there was near universal sympathy and backing for the US war on terrorism. There was also worldwide condemnation of the attacks on the United States, which muffled whatever sympathies ran underneath the surface of Islamic societies for Osama bin Laden, especially in Muslim countries with hotbeds of Islamic fundamentalism.

Of course, time cools passion and has allowed the United States' European allies to be more reflective over the efforts by Bush and the war hawks in Washington to stampede them into backing his call for early military action on Iraq.

But European resistance to be dragooned into another US-led military action is more than a function of the passage of time. There is a widespread view in Europe that after the end of the Cold War and the emergence of the United States as the sole superpower, the United States has tended to do things unilaterally, and expect the Europeans to follow its lead in the expanding theater of war against terrorism. When the United States widened the scope of the war on terrorism beyond Afghanistan and extended it to Iraq, most Europeans were not inclined to go along with Washington. Washington seems to underestimate the importance of the notion of multilateralism to the Europeans. It has failed to understand that the European Union grew out of the principle of multilateral relationship, beginning with the reconciliation of France and Germany after Germany's defeat in World War II. The European Union was conceived in the womb of a resolution that the great European powers will not go to war again after the continent has been ravaged by two world wars, let alone a number of wars over the centuries.

The fact that more than a dozen European countries are now bonded by a common currency, the euro, whose exchange value is at par with the US dollar—is the latest evidence of the entrenchment of the multilateral concept that has gradually integrated the Europeans economically and politically. Traveling on the continent with a Schengen visa, which allows untrammeled entry into 15 members of the European Union, calls to mind how much multilateralism has sunk deep roots among the Europeans.

After Bush addressed the UN General Assembly, calling on the Security Council to enforce its resolutions that demanded that Iraq dismantle its facilities that could produce biological warfare weapons and nuclear devices, it became clear that most Europeans were not prepared to follow the United States in its ultimatum that unless Iraq destroys these installations, it would attack Iraq with or without a UN resolution.

The surprise offer by Iraq to allow back UN inspectors to scrutinize its facilities suspected of fabricating nuclear and biological weapons was dismissed by the United States as a worthless piece of paper. But UN General Assembly President Kofi Annan and most of the European allies of the United States and even Arab bloc countries chorused in the call to make the inspection offer work so as to avoid war.

The return of inspectors is short of what the United States wants in its ultimatum for the dismantling of Iraq's installations within an immediate timetable. It is however close to the French proposal for a return of the UN monitors. There is widespread perception in the European press that Bush is less interested in the return of the inspectors than in launching an attack while "the iron is still hot." But the sentiment is developing in the Security Council against a tougher resolution against Iraq as sought by the United States. The US war momentum has been stalled in the Security Council, much to Bush's frustration.

Even CAB knows Manila-Dubai flights inadequate

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TRANSPORTATION and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza promptly replied to the column "OFWs' interests vs. PAL profits?" that came out last Tuesday.

In fairness, let's hear the secretary's side first on the issue.

Air consultation talks between the Philippines and Bahrain, he said, were held last Sept. 11 "despite the opposition of Philippine Airlines." Among the matters resolved was the increase by one additional frequency to the already existing capacity on the Bahrain-Manila route, and the enjoyment by the Philippines of "unrestricted frequencies from points in the Philippines to Bahrain." Bahrain will also be allowed to operate an additional weekly combination flight (passenger and/or cargo) on the Bahrain-Clark route.

Refuting the claim of Kakammpi, a support and advocacy group for OFWs and their families, that the present allotment of six flights a week between Manila and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates is grossly inadequate to meet the demand, Mendoza said the present frequencies "are sufficient to accommodate our OFWs plying the route." Pending the amendment of the existing Air Service Agreement "that shall allow for regular additional weekly frequencies for both parties," Mendoza says the CAB has been "liberal in granting the requests of Emirates Air for additional weekly frequencies, albeit temporary, in order to meet existing traffic demands."

On the postponement of the air talks with the UAE, Mendoza said the CAB is "a mere member" of the Inter-Agency Panel and it was the panel as a whole, acting on a letter issued by Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople, which decided to prioritize the RP-Japan, RP-Korea and RP-US air talks.

* * *

MENDOZA'S letter raises interesting questions.

If the number of flights to/from Manila and Dubai, as contained in the existing agreement, is sufficient, why has the CAB acceded to Emirates Air's request for additional, though temporary, weekly frequencies? Obviously, the "official" allotment of six flights a week is insufficient, otherwise, there would have been no justification for such an accommodation, however informal, given to a foreign airline. And since the CAB clearly appreciates the logic of Emirates Air's and the OFWs' claims that the current levels of demand cry out for more flight frequencies, why not enter into negotiations now and make the additional flights official?

I fully understand why our overseas workers and their families are raising hell over this matter. Why should the air agreements with Japan, Korea and the United States take priority over long-delayed talks with Middle Eastern countries, when the Middle East has been and remains a major destination for OFWs? Is it because those affected are "only" overseas workers, never mind if they're supposed to be our "new heroes"? President Macapagal-Arroyo doesn't have to station herself at the airport come Christmas season to shower prizes on a lucky OFW to show how much she values the overseas worker. All she has to do is light a fire under the asses of DOTC and CAB officials, as well as the members of the Inter-Agency Air Panel, to start the negotiations and finally make life easier for overseas workers and their loved ones.

* * *

MENDOZA was obviously stung by allegations of Kakammpi that he owes his "miraculous" one-day confirmation process to a wealthy and very influential "patron." Mendoza's stroll through the proceedings of the Commission on Appointments was indeed remarkable, given the firestorm of protest that greeted his appointment to the DOTC.

It is "grossly unfair," he said, "to insinuate that each and every member of the CA, who voted unanimously for my confirmation...has been unduly influenced by your alleged single private entity."

I'd like to give him the benefit of the doubt, so Secretary Mendoza, show me and Kakammpi and the public that this time around, in the forging of new air agreements, you will be guided by nothing more and nothing less than the public good and the national interest.

* * *

NOT everyone who drops by a hotel is rich enough to afford a driver. Members of the media, for instance, have to attend press conferences and lunches to gather material for columns, news reports or background information. Why then do hotels seem bent on penalizing the poorer (or at least relatively poorer) segment of their clientele who do not enjoy the luxury of being chauffeured around town?

I've written before about other hotels that exhibit a cavalier attitude toward the parking woes of clients who drive their own cars (Shangri-la Edsa and Shangri-la Makati, take note), and other hotels (Intercon, take a bow) that charge an arm and a leg for visitors who avail of valet parking. To this latter list we will have to add, I'm sorry to say, New World Renaissance Hotel.

In years past, whenever invited to lunch in Makati, I would often opt for New World Hotel because they had a fairly liberal parking policy and their valets were always pleasant and quick on their feet. Not anymore. I ask you, is it reasonable to charge more than a hundred pesos for a vehicle that had been valet parked and kept in New World's precious parking basement for just two hours?

I don't know why New World has suddenly become so avaricious it would gouge visitors for parking. My guess is the change of management since the new policy was adopted only recently. I'm adding New World Hotel to the list of hotels I am personally boycotting, and at the rate I'm going, I will soon have nowhere to go to satisfy my craving for five-star luxury. But I don't give a s—t.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Preserving our cultural heritage

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE cannot imagine how reading material just grows in a library. Stacks of books filed for "future" reference, things kept under tables, on the floor, on chairs such that visitors have no place to sit. When the stacks grow too high, one has to trim the pile and I usually begin with all those government annual reports. Sometimes I wonder who reads these things aside from the people entrusted with producing them. I browsed through old reports of the National Commission on Culture, the National Library, the National Historical Institute, the National Museum and realized that there is a lot being done in culture outside of the performing and visual arts. Of course, I added more seemingly useless information in my head, again, for "future" use.

The Philippine Constitution of 1987 declares that the State should protect the cultural treasure of the nation—that is, the artistic and cultural wealth of the country. This basic principle is thus embodied in a series of laws and jurisprudence on cultural heritage over the years. A significant number of these laws concern the recognition and protection of built heritage implemented by a number of government cultural agencies. As an archipelagic country of over 7,000 islands that is home to diverse ethno-linguistic groups, cultural heritage protection is a challenge not just to the government but to the general public as well.

We always hear complaints about public apathy to heritage conservation in the country, but I would like to think positive and presume that it is more a lack of awareness of cultural heritage. Over the past few years, for example, one of the many NCCA Committees, the Committee on Cultural Education, has supported through funding, coordination and diplomacy a wide array of projects such as seminars and workshops on cultural awareness, architectural heritage preservation, preventive conservation of museum artifacts, adaptive re-use of heritage structures, preservation and conservation of Philippine built heritage both Spanish-colonial and ethnic structures, culture and heritage amid challenges in planning, etc. Many of these seminars and workshops are purposely conducted in cities and regions outside the capital, Manila, to reach a wider audience.

Furthermore, there is a move to increase and diversify this audience by educating the general public in these concerns through the media, publications, traveling exhibits, etc. Grants were given to the National Museum and the National Historical Institute for the publication of Teachers' Guides to selected artifacts in the museum and reference material covering the various national shrines, landmarks and monuments. Although the National Museum, the National Library, and the National Historical Institute were transferred from the Department of Education to the NCCA, they still remain partners in Philippine education. These agencies continually provide tools for the teaching and appreciation of Philippine history and culture.

Last June, a new Basic Education Curriculum was implemented in all the public elementary and high schools. It may be too early to measure the effects of the new curriculum, but through coordination and advocacy, more cultural content was recommended for integration into the curriculum and textbooks.

A few weeks back I was invited to Tayabas to look at the output of a Unesco-sponsored workshop on heritage awareness and appreciation for students. These young people were made to rediscover their heritage through cultural artifacts and art forms that they see in their everyday surroundings. The seminar-workshops encouraged them to document these expressions of culture, and by disseminating their findings to their peers and families it led communities to realize that culture is not just the exclusive preserve of the idle rich, or the highly educated but rather part of their daily lives. Later, perhaps, they can see themselves in the context of national history.

Cultural agencies also link and coordinate with other government agencies to promote cultural awareness in other areas. For example, the National Historical Institute in cooperation with the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, have produced the first of a series of CD-ROMs that contains photographs of major historic sites, structures, landmarks and monuments supplemented by historical information as well as maps and locations marked by a global positioning system. The Philippine Postal Corp. has placed significant works of Philippine art, as well as events and personages in Philippine history in postage stamps. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has put the following national treasures: the Rice Terraces, Manungul Jar and Langal on the back of the current P1,000 bill, and the Central Bank Numismatic Committee is now discussing more cultural content in a future series of coins and bank notes.

While the programs and activities mentioned above may seem to be a lot, it is sadly not enough. Much remains to be done in terms of cultural heritage protection in the Philippines and before this column ends up sounding like one of Bambi Harper's, I'll stop here and hope for the best in terms of heritage protection.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Shielded by Bicol's Virgin of Peñafrancia

HIGH BLOOD

Corazon M. Oliver

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

BEGINNING last Sept. 13 until the 22nd, the whole of Bicolandia will celebrate the feast of "Ina" as we, the Bicolanos, fondly call our Virgin of Peñafrancia. The nine-day festivities start with a procession or "*traslacion*" that takes her from her home at the Basilica to the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral and is participated in by thousands upon thousands of devotees from all corners of the Bicol Region and from all walks of life. There, she will stay until she is brought back in a fluvial procession nine days later.

This story of how all these years she has been my family's protector, is my offering to her.

In March 1990, my husband became a victim of the horrible ignorance of some doctors in my city. Despite severe pains in the abdominal region, yellowish complexion and persistent itchiness of the entire body, his internist failed to correctly diagnose his case. His condition worsened, and so, fearing for his life, I had him released from the local hospital to be airlifted to St. Luke's. Upon examination, his attending physician scheduled an operation that would take place three days later so that his body could be bombarded with third-generation antibiotics. The operation began at 9 of that Monday morning, and one doctor assured us that it would be over by 12 o'clock.

Twelve o'clock passed, two, three, four, five, six. No doctor or news came out despite repeated intercom inquiries. Meantime, we were trying to stay outwardly calm. Inside us, however, a dam seemed to be breaking. At about 7 p.m., I was summoned to the recovery room. To say that the sight of all those tubes and machines connected to an immobile body was unnerving would be an understatement. Right away, I knew that only the Virgin could save him. On his chest, I laid the "*manto*" (cape) of the Virgin which my eldest son had brought with him that morning. He was then wheeled into the CCU (my choice since I always associated the ICU with death) and two days later, he was transferred to a private room. Every time his surgeon made his daily rounds, he would head straight for the plastic bag connected to the tube inside my husband's body and seeing little or no output, he would shake his head. No explanation as to what he was looking for. Thereupon, my hands would turn clammy and my knees, wobbly. I would await his prognosis, but none came. All he would say was, "I can't tell you yet. We'll know after 24 hours." This went on for the next 21 days; thus, I began to measure my life in terms of 24 long hours. On the 22nd day, a special procedure was done which finally resolved everyone's dilemma. Only then did we know that the shunt inserted to replace the bile duct was working. Only then did his surgeon say: "You know I did not expect him to live beyond 24 hours! Barely one in a million survives septicemia!" My husband's anesthesiologist, amazed at his unexpected survival, borrowed the "*manto*" and passed it around her family. She herself did not believe that he would make it for she was the one who led the prayer for the dying as his blood pressure went down to zero and stayed there for 10 minutes.

A few months later, he turned yellow, itched all around and was again in excruciating pain. Expecting a medical solution, I rushed back to his surgeon who offered nothing. For him, it was time to give up.

Upon reaching home, I put the "*manto*" back inside his pillow case. A week earlier, I had taken it out so that the Virgin could "rest" from taking care of him. The following morning, he excreted what looked like mud and lo and behold, the yellowing and itching were gone! How can you explain that except for the Virgin's miracle?

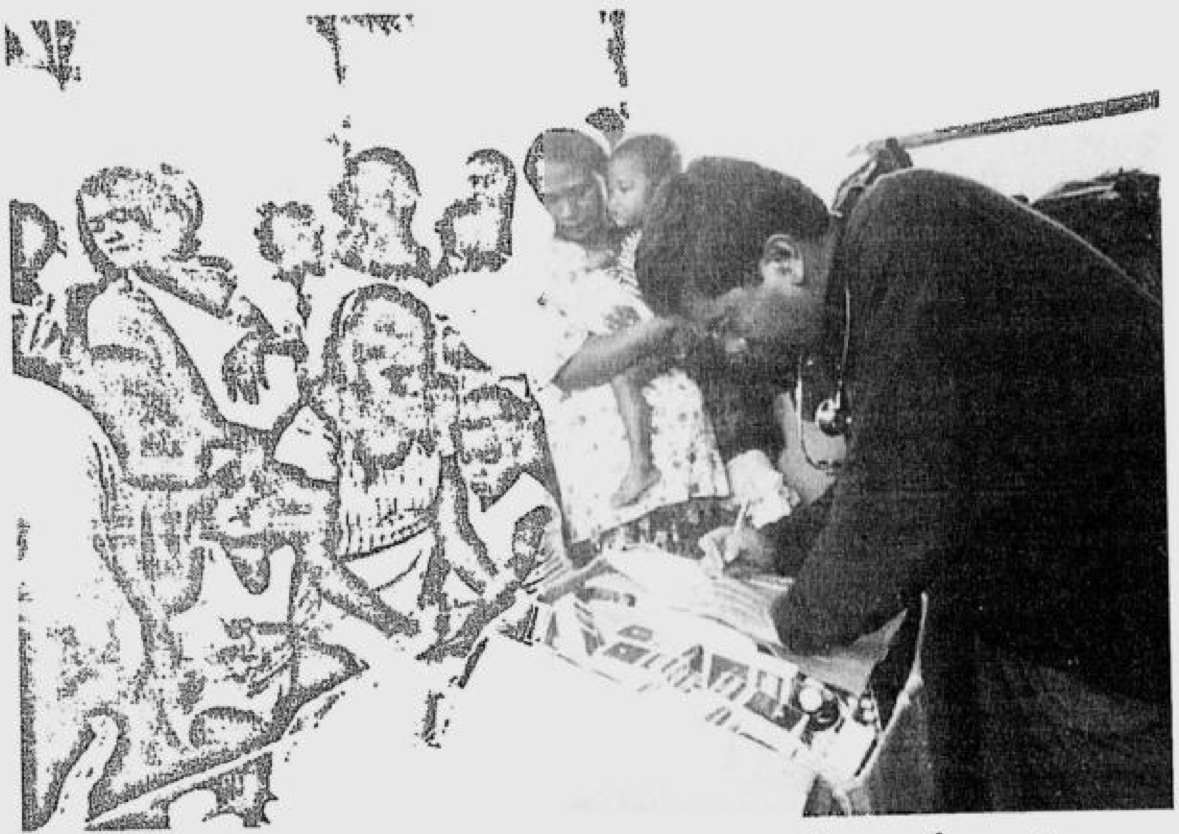
My husband lived for another two years after his operation. In between were five more hospitalizations for the amputation of his left leg, physical therapy and practice on how to use a prosthetic leg, pneumonia and finally, cancer. In addition to these hospital expenses were the interminable medical prescriptions and check-ups all requiring oodles of money. In addition, there were my children's college expenses to pay for. There were also two households to maintain. Where we got the money for all of these without selling any of our property or going into the poorhouse still stuns me up to this time. I was unable to teach full time, but the Virgin bailed me out of all these travails with another source of income—real estate—a field I was a greenhorn at, and yet became the source of all the money I desperately needed.

My husband was not the only one that the Virgin snatched away from the clutches of the Grim Reaper, even if only temporarily. Three times she did the same for me. The first was when I was diagnosed with cancer. One consulting oncologist even said that one node was inoperable because it had attached itself to the bone. With the Virgin's protection, however, the biopsy of the tissues taken turned out to be benign. The second was when I had a heart attack, an experience I wrote about in this column last Oct. 23, 2001. As a postscript to that experience, let me relate that four ECGs and three cardiologists later, I got the confirmation that I did not have a heart attack at all! At first, I was mad at my original cardiologist who diagnosed my case as acute myocardial infarction until my daughter chided me. She reminded me that my doctor, along with the tests he conducted, might have been right, but that I had another doctor whose healing hand was far more powerful than a doctor's—the Virgin's! On the third instance, I was driving on the middle lane of the South Expressway when I felt a loud thud on the rear, followed by the breaking of glass. A big bus had hit my car. The car could have crumpled like an accordion considering the speed the bus was going at. But no, only the rear was ruined and we were unscathed!

"Ina" has been the source of my strength through all these 10 years of being without a husband. Only those who have been widowed know how lonely it is not to have someone to share the pains and the joys of the day. But the Virgin has seen to it that my children have grown up responsible, thoughtful and caring. Once in a while, one or two give me a headache, but never a migraine. The Virgin has also given me friends who stand by me as I sail through calm or stormy seas. She has provided me with a very professionally and financially rewarding job at an international school. She has made me see places I thought I would see only in my dreams.

In sum, she has indeed shielded me from the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune."

Corazon M. Oliver teaches at Brent International School Manila. At the same time she is the vice area 5 director of Zonta International.



Realities to a community doctor

THIS is in response to the Youngblood article "Doctors and priests" by Alfonso P. Suico Jr. (PDI, 9/7/02) While Suico has now found himself in his congregation, it is good that he still updates himself on events involving his first calling, like the physician licensure examinations.

Indeed there are many things wrong with medical education in our country today. Medical education is based on an American model that places too much emphasis on the prescription of expensive drugs and laboratory examinations which most of our countrymen cannot afford. Most of a medical student's training is spent in the hospital whereas a majority of the population live in the rural areas where the most basic health facilities are lacking.

I'd like Suico to know that there are a few exceptions though. There is a nationwide network of community-based health programs where doctors like me have chosen to serve. Just three days after I finished my post-graduate internship, I ventured into the Community Integration and Training Program for Physicians (CITPP) sponsored by the Community Medicine Development Foundation.

My life has turned out more meaningful because I am serving people in the far-flung areas of the Cordillera Region. We walk seven long hours to reach the poblacion of Lacub, Abra and two more hours to extend service to the other sitios. We cross the wide Abra River to reach Quirino, Ilocos Sur and then set out again on foot.

It is here where I have experienced staying with the community people, helping them out in the fields, planting rice with them, doing some cooking and cleaning, and sharing lots of brewed coffee with them. In the evenings, people come and tell their stories in a more moving and a more real sense—the meaning of life, their difficult livelihood, their culture and how the present socio-economic issues affect their lives.

The lack of government budget support for health is more stark in these far-flung areas. Medications for tuberculosis are not available. Department of Health medications are being sold. Noxious toxic chemical waste from big mining companies poison farm lands and kill their fish and yet the government does nothing.

Now that Suico is a priest, we need his prayers and active participation in working with the people in his community toward social change.

—CIPRIANO TUCAY JR.,
Community Health Education,
Services and Training in the
Cordillera Region Inc.
(CHESTCORE), Magsaysay
Avenue, Baguio City

Much to be proud of still

SADDENED by the continuing exodus of valuable Filipino talent toward "greener pastures," I continue to believe in the enormous potential of our country and the increasing need for this talent locally. It is unfortunate that even our business media is prevailed upon by the Filipino audiences' fancy for stories of tragedy and conflict, thus downplaying the significance of numerous success stories that continue to unfold.

As part of a pan-Asian organization providing supply chain services to a wide range of companies, I am proud about the significance placed upon our Filipino operation by the group's shareholders and regional management team. Strong performance and sustained growth have earned for the local team the respect of its colleagues around the region.

Our company's role as service provider furthermore, allows for us a window into the state of many other companies around. Revenue erosion and diminishing profits are a reality for many. Nevertheless, one cannot say that success stories are few and far between. In fact, there are numerous examples!

Haven't you heard of the Paris-based world leader in high-end personal products, cosmetics and fine fragrances whose local presence grew by 75 percent in the past year? Within their organization, they are reportedly the fastest-growing unit in Asia. Two other multinational clients of ours are leaders in the food category. Again, last year showed growth in excess of 20 percent for both teams, making them the envy of their colleagues around the region. Even the leading players in our personal and home care sectors, after years of continued growth, still delivered double-digit expansion last year.

We credit these achievements to a world-class Filipino work force and management.

Our government has a role to play in supporting these successes. We all know the seriousness of our peace and order concerns. President Macapagal-Arroyo must be saluted for the priority she is placing on this. While some feel she has gone too far on the photo ops, I don't think she can ever do enough.

Beyond peace and order, our government must address two areas of concern with long-term impact, both relating to "raw materials"—our natural and human resources.

It is almost embarrassing that we have moved from being a major exporter of many commodities to being a net importer. Even rice, our most basic commodity, is now being imported. Many goods may be available locally but the inefficiency of local processes forces many to rely on imports. A more systematic and scientific approach to agricultural development is our only hope of adding value to and, in fact, reviving our manufacturing sector.

Our quality of education is also crying for the government's attention. An April issue of Time Magazine presented results of a 1999 study wherein students across 38 countries were evaluated. How sad it was to see our Filipino students lagging behind their Asian counterparts, including the likes of Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. The knowledge-based Filipino workforce continues to attract investors, but for how much longer?

The many success stories should continue to make us proud of being Filipino. However, in order to stem the continuing exodus of talent, there is an urgent need to invest in the traditional strengths of our nation as represented by these "raw materials."

—EMMANUEL D. BAUTISTA,
Ayala Heights Village,
Quezon City

Narrow-minded positions on delicate issues

I NOTICE that you print in an uninterrupted fashion the advocacy of Rina Jimenez-David regarding feminism, women's reproductive rights and her constant bashing of priests and the Church, but you don't publish articles that speak about the sacredness of life, family, women, children, especially the unborn and openly speak against the contraceptive lifestyle.

Your newspaper may be perceived to take a narrow-minded position on very delicate issues and promote Jimenez-David as the champion of women's rights and a credible source of information on women. I tell you, there are countless women and men in the church as well as in society who don't share her "opinion."

In the name of responsible journalism, I would insist that you also allow regular columnists who are more well-rounded in their outlook on life, family, women, children and the unborn, and the Divine, who is the main author of life. They too have a story to tell about how life is celebrated in a real way while protecting it at all costs.

This would also empower the readers to judge the issue at hand according to a really informed conscience and choose to the junk the unconstitutional HB 4110 pending in Congress today.

—REV. FR. JOSELITO JOPSON,
minister, Ministry of Social
Communications, Archdiocese
of Manila, 2/F Arzobispado de
Manila, 121 Arzobispo St.,
Intramuros, Manila

Rina Jimenez-David is a regular columnist and she is free to write what she wants. If the letter writer reads this page, he would have known better than to hurl that blanket accusation that we don't publish articles that "speak of the sacredness of life" etc.—Ed.

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

LETTERS

Getting OFWs ready for evacuation

IT is of public knowledge that in many Middle East countries, employers keep the passports of foreign workers. In the event of another war in the Gulf region, such employers may leave abruptly without releasing the passports of OFWs. Hence, it is imperative for Labor Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas to order all labor attachés in the areas that are at risk to tell the employers of OFWs to turn over their employees' passports to their respective owners.

As a parallel move, Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople should direct all Philippine embassies and consulates in those areas to be ready to issue, free of charge, official Philippine IDs and travel documents to those OFWs who might not be able to get back their passports in case of sudden evacuation. Otherwise, such workers may find difficulty in exiting from their host countries and boarding commercial vessels. Worse, they might end up stranded indefinitely, without any means of communication and sustenance.

Finally, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration should issue an advisory that all OFWs going to or already in the Middle East must have emergency travel kits ready at all times.

—FRANCISCO S. DE GUZMAN,
president, Kites Manila
Information Center Inc., Level 2,
FSDG Bldg., Scout De Guia St.,
Quezon City

No gov't funds in DepEd chief's Bali trip

MAY I refer to Neal Cruz's column in the Sept. 16 issue of the INQUIRER, headlined "GMA should call for government austerity."

Cruz was correct in noting that I took an overseas trip before taking my oath of office as education secretary. He apparently assumed, however, that the government paid for this trip.

I went to Bali to participate in a conference convened and funded by the Aspen Institute and the Ford Foundation. This was a follow-up to a meeting in Santiago, Chile, last year, to which I had committed months before a vacancy opened up in the Department of Education.

—EDILBERTO C. DE JESUS,
secretary, Department of
Education, DepEd Complex,
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

What are your thoughts on a US war against Iraq?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

ALL wars are an extension of politics: Who supports the politics of Saddam and Osama and who supports the politics of America? One side will prevail over the other in this clash of politics and values. I see that Flavius is sympathetic to Saddam. And he probably is also sympathetic to the CPP/NPA. We will see on the battlefield which political side will win. Will the victors be Saddam and Osama with Flavius cheering on the side lines or the United States and United Kingdom with the support of the majority of New Yorkers and Israelis? Stay tuned.—**sulung**

* * *

Sulung, even Americans are almost evenly divided on whether to attack or not. A year ago maybe, but no longer. Why mention only New Yorkers? New York isn't America.

Frankly, you are being dishonest about this fact, Sulung. You and your hawkish allies like Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz couldn't even muster the same level of support like Bush Sr. had during Desert Storm in 1991. Are you saying then that half of all Americans, those who don't support your position, are Saddam supporters?

That is basically the problem with your line of thinking. Your cowboy versus Indian mentality is too simplistic to apply on issues of international politics. Global politics is far too complex for that kind of thinking.

It is true that war is an extension of politics. But it can also be an extension of the personal whims and vested economic and financial interests of certain powerful and unscrupulous parties and politicians. This is why people shouldn't believe everything their leaders tell them but must learn to think for themselves and read between the lines. Watch out for what is not being said; what they aren't telling you. This is probably the reason people today aren't as enthusiastic as you about war.—**Flavius Maximus**

* * *

At the time Clausewitz wrote his treatise on war, the idea of civilian casualties of war was not unheard of. The US civil war is an example. Sherman left a trail of carnage on his march to the sea. It was only Clausewitz who dared put it in writing and justified everything as an "extension of politics by other means." This is war in its purest sense.

I can understand Sulung because he has the typical American perception of the world. What he is saying is true. A lot of Americans really feel the way he does.

America's role in the world is changing rapidly since the collapse of the former Soviet Union. When the Cold War ended, the armed forces were left without a war to fight. It took 9/11 to galvanize their sense of purpose.

A soldier usually has to take solace from the fact that he is only doing his duty. Not only for the flag but for his fellow soldiers. Having been at the frontlines myself, I know the dangers and the sense of loss very intimately. But it is something I would do again if the cause is good and just. It only takes an order.

I'd say that Sulung's heart is in the right place as a soldier. It's the "cause" that I don't quite agree with.

America only needs to be sensitive to other people's cultures to earn the world's approval.—**mikelogics**

* * *

Although the Iraqi government is a corrupt dictatorship that must eventually be removed, current proposals to remove the government by deploying hundreds of thousands of US troops are deeply flawed. A premature attack against Iraq, especially when the public opposes it, would be a horrible mistake.

Since 1990, more than 400 US soldiers have died in the Gulf War theater of operations. Untold hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, both soldiers and civilians, also died. A second invasion of Iraq for one man is not worth one more life; let's use common sense and avert a second Gulf War.—**mateo**

Missing from GMA photos with suspects

PHOTOS of President Macapagal-Arroyo with ranking police and military officials presenting the suspects published in major newspapers are sending a strong signal not only locally but abroad, that her administration is very determined in fighting crimes and not only the heinous ones but also the most serious and gravest.

But something is missing from the pictures. She should include in the presentation to the media the local executives such as governors, mayors and barangay officials in whose territory and jurisdiction the crime was committed. Also include the head of the department, bureau, agency or office in which the law violator is employed or where he has made the illegal transaction.

Let us congratulate Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin for being with the President in one of her photo ops, presenting an alleged influence-peddler in her department.

Authority carries with it a responsibility. A government official cannot shirk from his duty and just hide in the confines of his office. He should be visible to the public just like the highest official of the land. The President cannot do it alone.

—BRIG. GEN. MANUEL OXALES
(ret.), Diliman, Quezon City

Unfortunate subject of presidential ire

FOR THE THIRD time last Sept. 2, 2002, our beloved administrator, Anthony R.A. Abad, had gotten the ire of President Macapagal-Arroyo. We believe he does not deserve such treatment. After all, he was not personally or directly at fault in any of those occasions revealing the legendary "Gloria tantrums." That is why Abad continues to have our full support and confidence. He is an honest man doing an honest job, perhaps to a fault.

We shrink in shame every time Abad's photo appears on the front pages of newspapers as a subject of the President's ire. Like a well-behaved student and a dutiful son, he stays cool and calm, listening without a tinge of resistance or rebellion at being scolded even before allowing him to explain. Like a sponge, he absorbs criticisms yet continues to radiate a fullness of spirit brought about by a clear conscience and a sincere motive to be of service to this country.

For the sake of setting the records straight, the first scolding incident which happened in Mabini, Batangas about a year ago was a case of misinformation on the part of the President. The almost one million sacks of PL-480 imported rice deposited in the National Food Authority-leased Farmix warehouse were not "rotting." The stocks already belonged to the bidders who won in the auction held prior to Abad's assumption as NFA head.

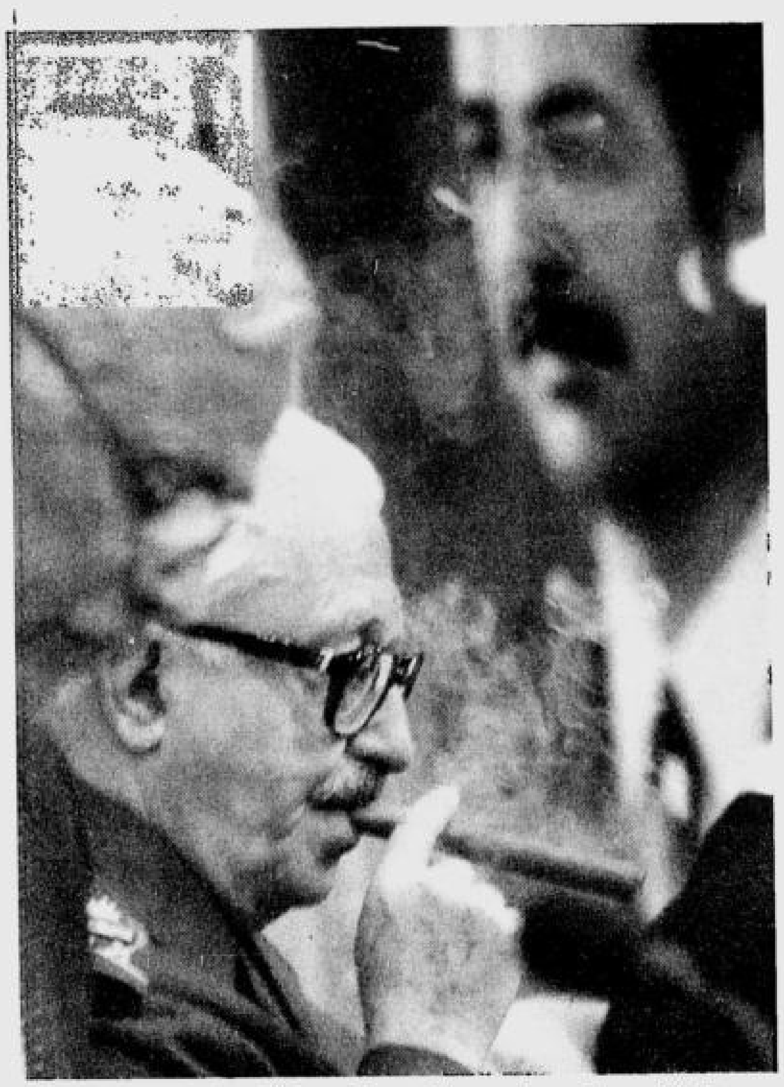
The second incident occurred in Barangay Holy Spirit in Quezon City. The visit was to coincide with other activities sponsored by the local government. In coordination with the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), the NFA was required to station six Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera (TLG) stores within the barangay hall compound where a job fair was also being conducted. When President Macapagal arrived, she asked if those six TGL units were regularly being fielded in that area. Of course Abad and the other concerned officials replied "no." That was what caused the presidential ire on Abad. It turned out that she just wanted a spot inspection of the actual operations of the TGL-RS. And so she rode a TGL truck to inspect the actual deployment sites and found the other units there.

The most recent incident in Cabanatuan was another case of a presidential outburst. When she looked for the records of the NFA's rice distribution system in the area, Director Roberto Mangune of NFA Region 3 readily handed her a document summarizing the records of rice withdrawals/distributions in the area. Without looking at the document, the President went on to look for other supporting documents such as receipts, etc. which were in the hands of the agency's clients and accountable officers and thus cannot be instantly produced as she wanted since that time, Nueva Ecija was celebrating an official public holiday. She was also misinformed that no P16/kilo NFA rice was available in the market. Later, she congratulated Abad and the NFA after she saw for herself when she went to the Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija Public Market (7 kilometers away from the NFA in Cabanatuan City) that the agency was indeed doing its job of selling sufficient quantity of quality but low-priced rice in the public market. But, the harm had been done.

—WITH 52 SIGNATORIES,
board and officers, National Food
Authority Employees Association,
Quezon City

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco



IRAQI Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz smokes a cigar, with the portrait of Saddam Hussein in background during a session of the 'solidarity conference' organized by the Iraqi government in Baghdad, Sept.18. AP

Saddam to pocket $2.5B from smuggling of oil this year, says report

NEW YORK—Iraqi President Saddam Hussein will make about $2.5 billion this year through oil smuggling and by exploiting the UN's program that manages Iraqi oil sales, a human rights group said on Wednesday.

Iraq's legal oil exports have been managed for the last six years by the oil-for-food program at the UN which allows Iraq to purchase humanitarian supplies with the revenue.

Iraq has said it expects to sell some $5 billion of oil this year through the program, though UN officials say Baghdad's exports have been running significantly below that target in recent months.

"That money is meant to be distributed to the Iraqi people in humanitarian goods, but Saddam is in charge of the distribution and he has a veto over the UN workers there," Susan Blaustein, the author of the report, told Reuters.

The report, titled "Sources of Revenue for Saddam and Sons: A Primer on the Financial Underpinnings of the Regime in Baghdad" was published by the Coalition for International Justice, a Washington D.C. human rights group.

It comes as the United States is urging Iraq to comply with UN Security Council resolutions to allow weapons inspectors into the country and disarm or face unspecified punitive action.

Oil smuggling to Syria and exploitation of the oil-for-food program brings Saddam $2.5 billion in hard currency or goods that can be traded in for other things, said Blaustein.

Saddam uses that money to purchase protection, bolster loyalty of his armed forces, procure luxury goods and purchase weapons, she said.

A spokeswoman for the oil-for-food program said the program is mandated by the UN Security Council to monitor Iraq's purchases of goods under the program and to track Iraq's oil exports.

But she said the program was not tasked by the Security Council to monitor anything outside those realms.

The UN Security Council, which has 15 members including five permanent members with veto power—the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain—has not been addressing the problem adequately, said Blaustein. The Security Council members could not be reached for comment.

"Each country has had its own reasons for refusing to crack down on Hussein's illegal revenue-generating activities.

Russia and France have been loathe to lose their lucrative oil-for-food contracts and future oil rights by taking any tough stance on Iraq in the UN Security Council," she said.

Washington and London have argued that the loss of revenue to the program is significant and disturbing and needs to be addressed by the UN Security Council. *REUTERS*

US spy agencies warned of Bin Laden attack 3 years before 9/11

WASHINGTON—The US intelligence community had been warned Osama bin Laden's network was considering blowing up US targets with aircraft at least three years before Sept. 11 attacks, but no specific plans ever surfaced, lawmakers were told Wednesday.

"In Sept. 1998, the intelligence community obtained information that Osama bin Laden's next operation could possibly involve flying an aircraft loaded with explosives into a US airport and detonating it," said Eleanor Hill, staff director of the joint House-Senate committee investigating intelligence actions leading up to the attacks last year.

The information was provided to senior US government officials. Later that year "intelligence agencies received further information concerning a bin Laden plot involving aircraft in the New York and Washington DC areas." But the reports lacked specific data as to where, when and how a terrorist attack might occur, and was buried under a flood of information collected by the 14 government agencies and organizations that conduct intelligence activities for the United States, she said.

Credibility

And while the credibility of some the sources offering the information had been questionable, Hill said, "the totality of the information . . . clearly reiterated a consistent and critically important theme: Osama bin Laden's intent to launch terrorist attacks inside the United States.

US intelligence agencies also for years had known about but failed to recognize the importance of a key leader of Bin Laden's al-Qaida group and did not anticipate his role in the Sept. 11 attacks, she told lawmakers.

"We believe that the intelligence community has known about this individual since 1995 but did not recognize his growing importance to al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden and did not anticipate his involvement in a terrorist attack of Sept. 11's magnitude," said Hill.

That failure was just one in a pattern of missed cues and that characterized US intelligence agencies before the deadly passenger jet strikes on the United States that left more than 3,100 dead in a matter of hours, she added.

Hill said she could not name the al-Qaida member because his identity is classified. Her testimony, she noted, had been cleared by the intelligence community for public release.

Moreover, the CIA director would not make public what information was provided to the president or the White House, citing national security interests, a policy decision at least one top senator disagreed with.

"The public should know if the president or the secretary of state" had been informed, complained Senator Bob Graham, chairman of the Senate Select Intelligence Committee, during a break in the hearing.

Senior administration officials, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage were to appear before the lawmakers Thursday.

400,000 pages

After studying more than 400,000 pages of documents and 400 interviews and technical discussions, the staff of 24 that serves the joint House and Senate committee concluded that although the intelligence community was aware of the potential for a terrorist attack on the United States using airplanes as weapons, it had failed to focus its analysis on that possibility.

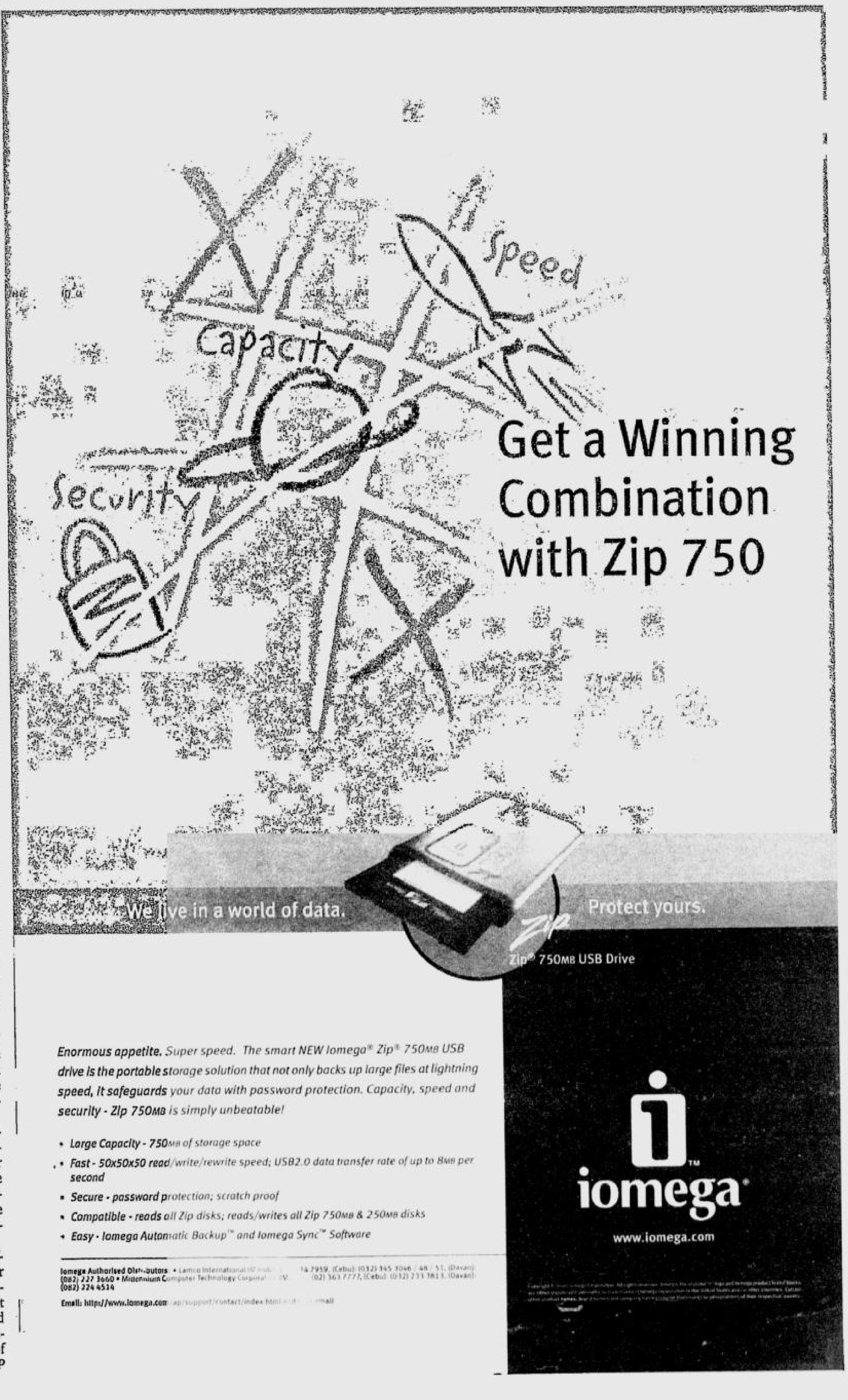
"Notwithstanding historical intelligence information to the contrary, the FBI and (Federal Aviation Administration) had assessed the prospects of a terrorist incident targeting domestic civil aviation in the United States as relatively low," Hill said.

Her remarks came in the first public hearing after 10 closed hearings regarding the intelligence committee's findings 53 weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks. But some lawmakers and victims advocates were not satisfied with the findings.

"Too many questions remain," said Kristin Brietweiser, whose husband Ron died on the 84th floor of the south tower of the World Trade Center in the attacks.

"We need people to be held accountable for their failures." Several lawmakers are pushing for an independent inquiry into the actions of the numerous US intelligence agencies, as well as those agencies falling outside that definition, such as the FAA.

"Our intelligence agencies suffered an utter collapse in their duties and responsibilities leading up to and on Sept. 11. But their negligence does not stand alone," said Brietweiser who delivered a stinging indictment of intelligence failures. *AFP*



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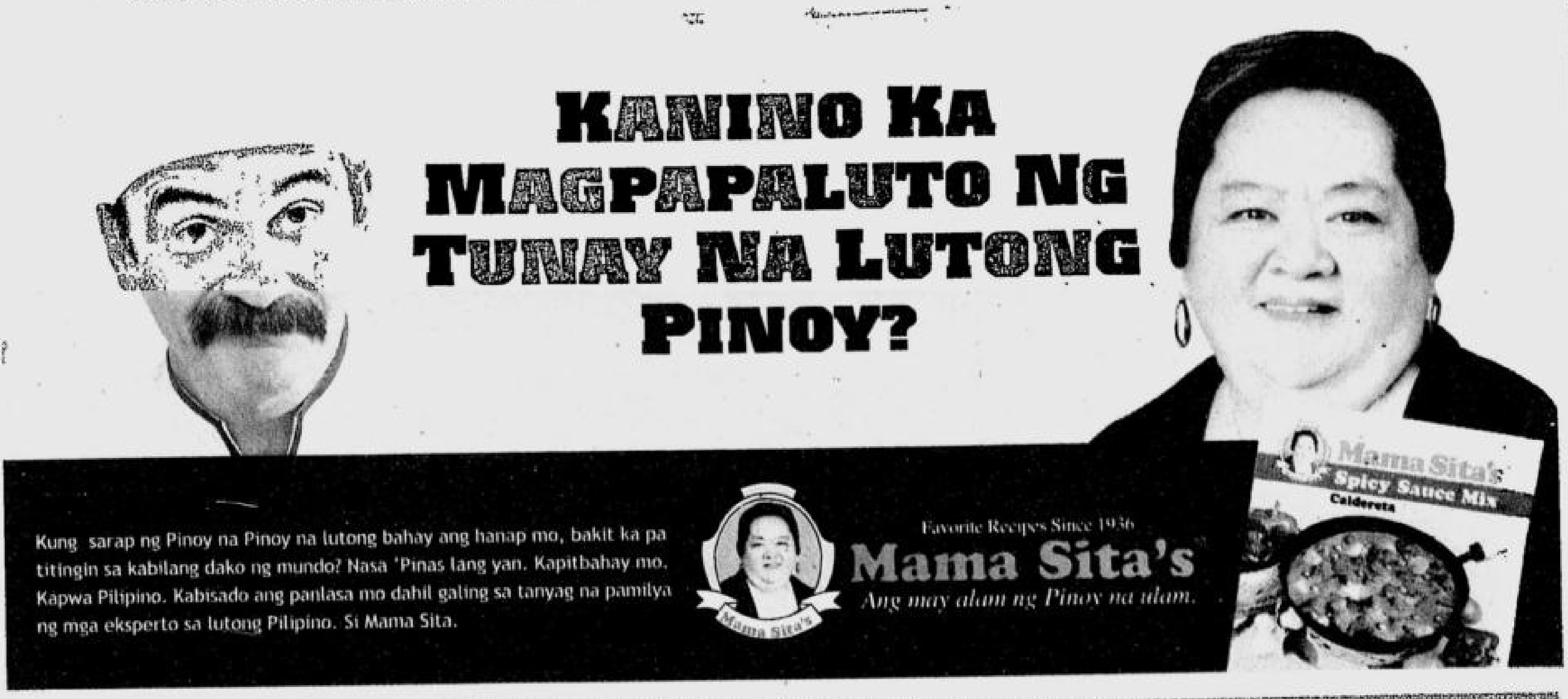
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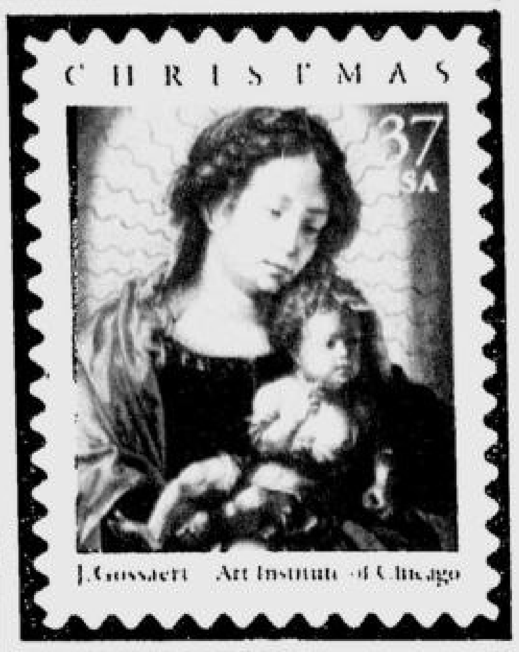


CHRISTMAS STAMP AP

The US Postal Service announced Sept. 18, that it's traditional Christmas stamp this year will feature artist Jan Gossaert's "Madonna and Child." The 37-cent stamp will be issued Oct. 10

North Korea will allow nuke checks, says Koizumi

TOKYO—Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said on Thursday North Korea had agreed to international inspections of its nuclear programme at the historic summit between the rivals.

"As for security issues and nuclear suspicion ... North Korea went as far as to say (at the summit) it will abide by international law and accept inspections, including those by the International Atomic Energy Agency," Koizumi said in a lecture at a Tokyo hotel hosted by the Research Insitute of Japan.

"There will be room for considering economic cooperation after we normalise ties but it would be difficult for Japan to extend economic aid unless North Korea clears suspicion over nuclear and security issues," he said, speaking two days after his historic visit to Pyongyang, the first by a Japanese prime minister.

North Korea is suspected of developing nuclear weapons under the guise of civil-use nuclear energy programmes.

Koizumi signed a joint declaration with North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il after the one-day summit, agreeing to resume talks on normalising ties in October.

The dividends emerging from the summit on nuclear inspections and an indefinite freeze on North Korean missile tests was overshadowed in Japan by the revelation that eight Japanese nationals abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970sand 1980s were now dead.

Koizumi was heavily criticised at a meeting of his Liberal Democratic Party's foreign affairs division on Wednesday.

Many members argued he should have taken a tougher line with Pyongyang when Kim admitted the kidnapping and revealed many of the victims had died.

Bereaved relatives of the kidnapping victims also condemned him for going ahead with the decision to resume talks with North Korea.

Koizumi defended his action Thursday and said criticism was to be expected in an open society. *AFP*

South, North Korea troops clear mines

DORASAN, South Korea—South Korean troops with mine-clearing equipment Thursday marched into the buffer zone that has separated the two Koreas for half a century to begin demining work ahead of the planned construction of railway links.

Around 100 soldiers, some bearing loaded weapons and others with demining gear, marched through an open gate leading into the demilitarized zone, known as the DMZ, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Seoul on the western side of the Korean peninsula.

Groundbreaking ceremonies occurred Wednesday for the start of construction on the rail link through the DMZ at Dorasan and at a site for a second line on the west side of the peninsula.

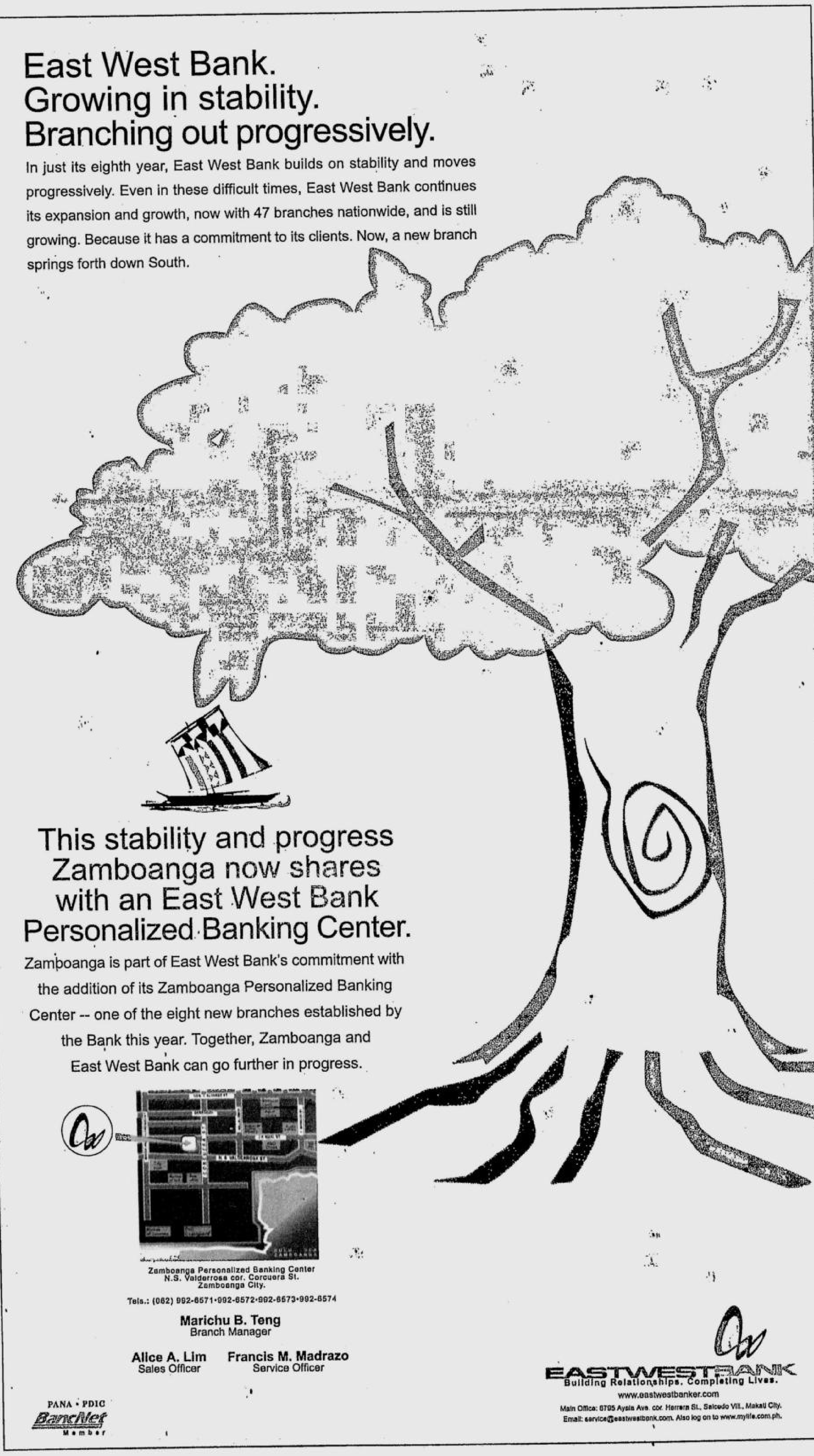
South Korean troops simultaneously entered the DMZ for mine-clearing operations at the two border sites.

North Korean troops, whose weapons are normally trained relentlessly on their Southern counterparts, were doing the demining work in the DMZ at both points from the North at the same time, Seoul officials said.

The DMZ is the no-man's land that has separated the hostile North and South since the 1950-53 Korean War.

The troops are to clear mines from a 250-meter (275-yard) wide DMZ corridor in both east and west to allow for the construction of two rail links and two accompanying roads, severed five decades ago.

The establishment of transport links has been heralded here as an historic breakthrough in efforts to unite the North and South, who have yet to sign a peace treaty and are technically still at war. *AFP*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US plans 'snatch or kill' moves

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon plans to put the US military's elite Special Operations Command in charge of most anti-terrorist actions around the world in a shift to a more covert war against al-Qaida, US officials said on Wednesday.

The command includes shadowy and highly trained special forces troops and counter-terrorism units that can conduct "snatch" or "kill" missions, among them Navy SEALS and the Army's Delta Force.

The officials also told Reuters that as many as 500 Special Operation troops had been recently moved to a base at Djibouti in East Africa for possible missions against al-Qaida guerrillas believed to be hiding throughout the region, especially Yemen.

"We have been looking at that part of the world for many months. It's obvious that al-Qaida—including terrorists who have run from Afghanistan—are there," said one of the US officials, who asked not to be identified.

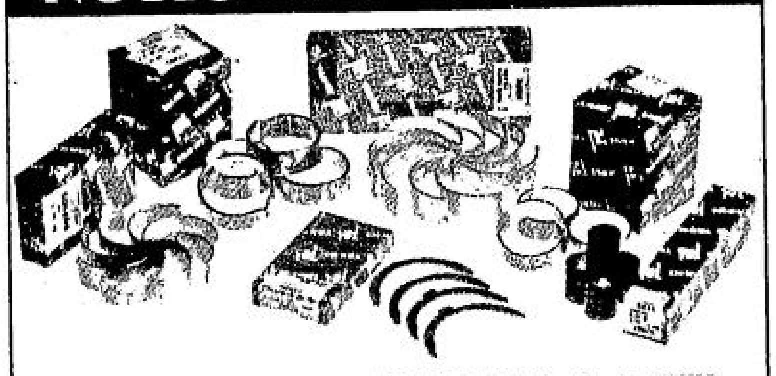
"They (the forces) are waiting for specific intelligence," said another official.

The officials, confirming a report on Wednesday in The Washington Post on the new Special Operations Command responsibilities, said CIA paramilitary units—which have operated with Special Operations forces in Afghanistan—are expected to work closely with SOCOM worldwide.

The Pentagon says that senior leaders and other guerrillas of fugitive Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, blamed by Washington for the last year's Sept. 11 attacks on America, have fled from Afghanistan to neighboring Pakistan and are also believed hiding in Yemen, Sudan, Georgia, Chechnya and other countries.

The Post reported that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was dissatisfied with the progress against terrorism by American military commands around the world and had decided to consolidate more control in the hands of SOCOM, based in Tampa, Florida.

The command is headed by Air Force Gen. Charles Holland and The Post said Holland had already been given direct responsibility for the hunt for al-Qaida in Yemen and Pakistan, two countries of major concern. *REUTERS*



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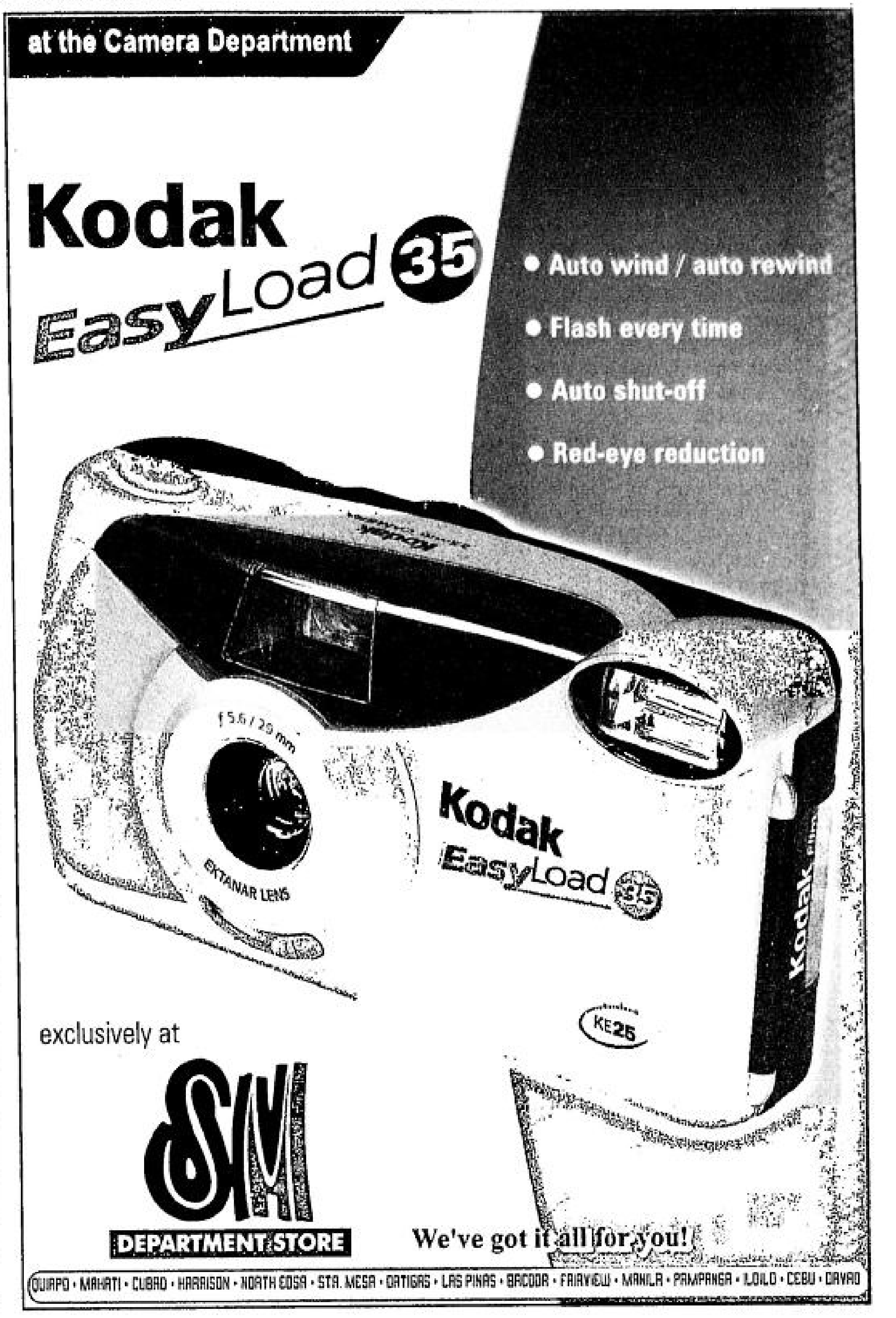

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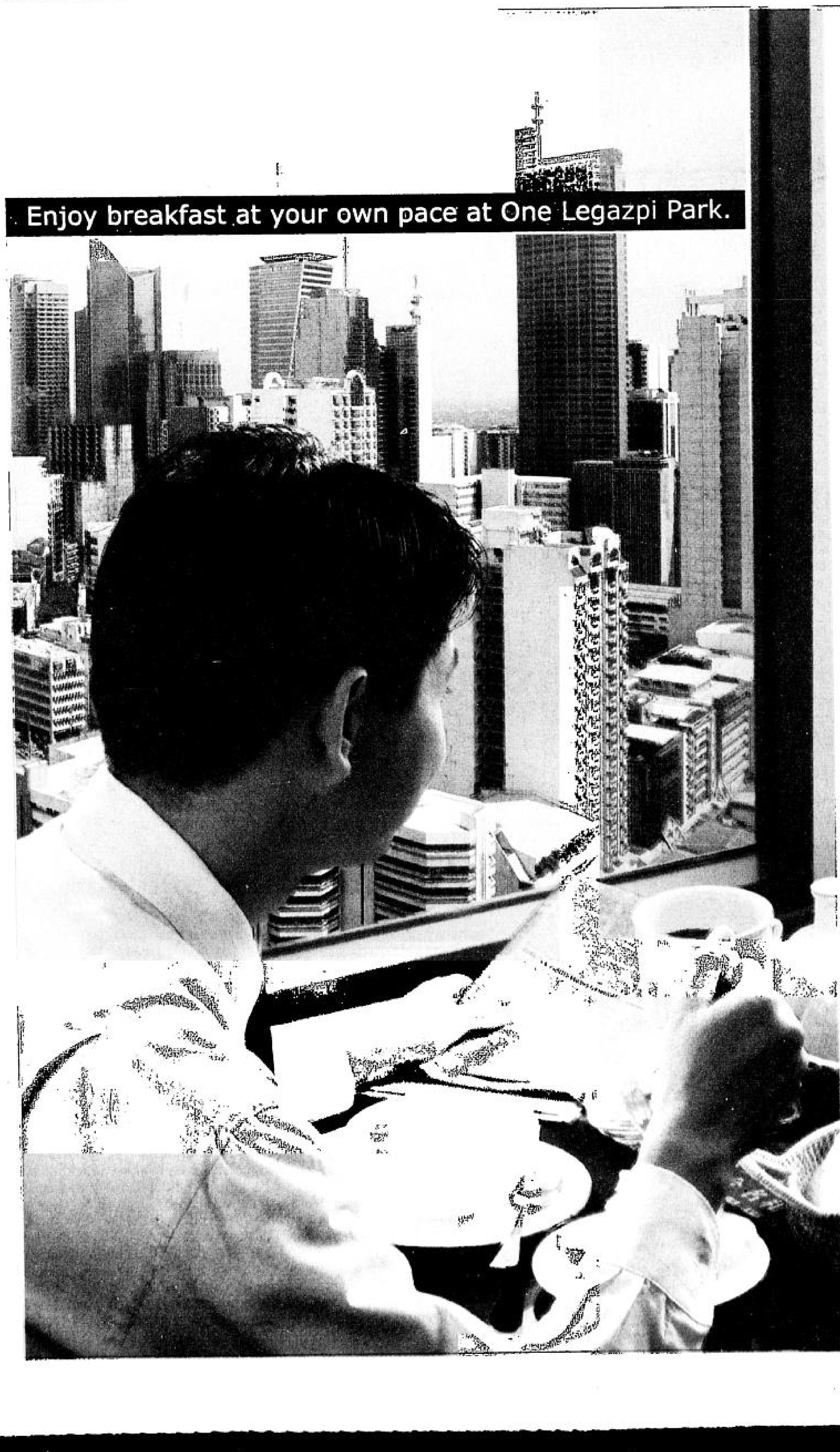
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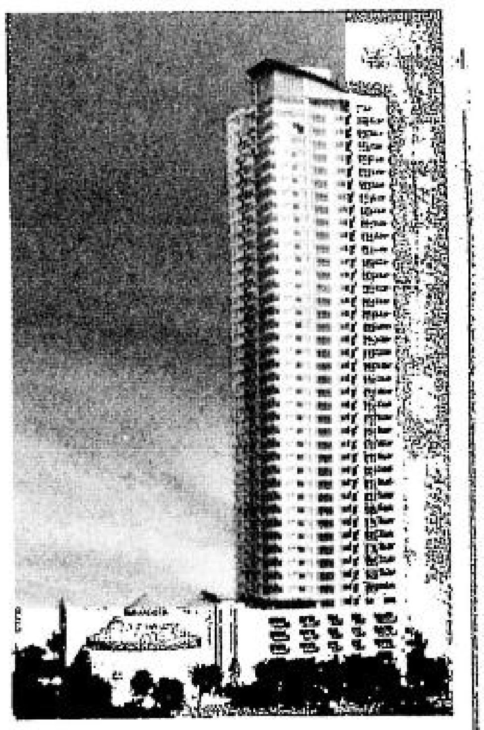

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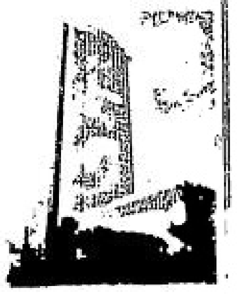
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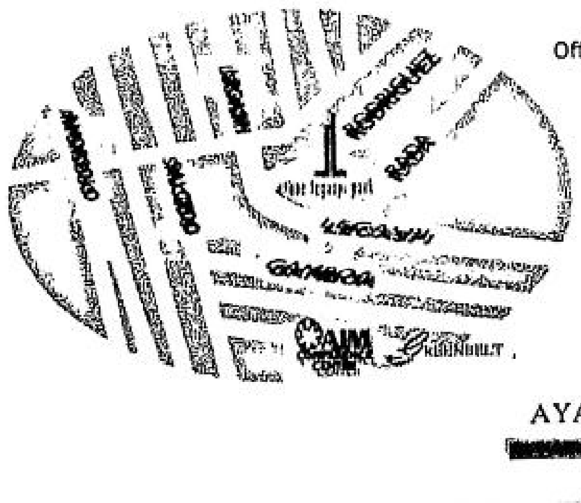

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6 killed in new suicide attacks in Israel

JERUSALEM—A suicide bomber blew himself up on a crowded bus in downtown Tel Aviv on Thursday, killing at least five people and wounding about 40 in the second such attack in two days, police said.

The blast went off during lunch hour while the bus was on Allenby Street, in the heart of a restaurant and business district.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. A previous attack on Wednesday's, in which a suicide bomber blew himself at a bus stop in northern Israel and also killed an Israeli policeman, was claimed by the militant Islamic Jihad group.

Thursday's explosion went off just after 1 p.m. outside one of the major synagogues in Tel Aviv.

"We heard an explosion, very big," a witness, identified only as Sarit, told Israel Army Radio. "We saw a large cloud of smoke and immediately lots of police came. People came out to help with first aid. We're trying to give them water. We saw the front of the bus and it apparently caught on fire."

The blast scorched the bus and blew out its windows. One man with blood over his bare chest was wheeled away by paramedics. Another man sat on the sidewalk, crying.

David Baker, an official in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office, said Palestinian militants are waging war against Israeli civilians. "The Palestinians have jumped on the terror bandwagon and are keen on unleashing murderous deeds at any and every opportunity," he said.

Palestinian Authority officials were not immediately available for comment. In the past, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has condemned suicide attacks on Israeli civilian, though Israel accuses him of doing little to prevent them.

A PALESTINIAN youth walks in the rubble of houses recently destroyed by the Israeli army in Rafah refugee camp, southern Gaza Strip, Sept. 18. Hundreds of people in this poor, war-battered Palestinian city along the Egyptian border have been made homeless by Israeli army raids. AP

A spokesman for the Islamic militant group Hamas, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, said he did not know who was behind the attack but welcomed it. "The Zionists are paying for the crimes and terrorism of their leaders and they should know that we are the real owners of this land and we would never give it up," he said.

Allenby Street has previously been targeted by Palestinian militants. On March 30, a suicide bomber from the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a militia linked to Arafat's Fatah movement, walked into a cafe on Allenby Street and blew himself up, killing one woman and wounding 30 people.

Israeli army bulldozers demolished the family homes of two Palestinian suicide bombers on Thursday, one day after an Israeli policeman was killed in the first Palestinian suicide bombing in six weeks.

Palestinian hospital officials said a 10-year-old boy had been found dead with a chest wound in the West Bank town of al-Bireh after witnesses reported Israeli army gunfire in the area. The army did not immediately comment.

In the town of Abu Dis on the outskirts of East Jerusalem, the army demolished the homes of two Palestinian youths who blew themselves up in rapid succession in central Jerusalem last December, killing 11 people.

Israel says such demolitions are intended to deter further attacks in the two-year-old uprising against Israeli occupation.

But violence has continued, and the end of the six-week lull has raised fears in Israel that it may face a new wave of attacks.

"The Israeli fatalities were an unfortunate coincidence rather than a new terror wave," an Israeli security source said, referring to the suicide bombing in northern Israel and two other incidents in which Israelis were killed on Wednesday.

Despite the bloodshed, the security source said: "There is no change planned for our military measures." *AP and Reuters*

4 dead, 300 homes torched in new Maluku violence

JAKARTA—Fresh communal violence has erupted in Indonesia's Maluku islands, leaving at least four people dead and around 300 buildings, including five churches, burned down, police and a report said Thursday.

Youths from two neighboring villages on Haruku island in Maluku province clashed on Wednesday, with two people killed and two others wounded in the violence, the state Antara news agency said.

The fight followed a trivial dispute between youths of the villages during a local feast on Sept. 14, Antara said without giving further details.

Another youth was killed in Ambon Wednesday as news of the violence sparked more clashes between men from the villages, Antara said.

On Sunday one person was killed when armed men attacked three villages in the northern part of Morotai, an island off the northwestern tip of Halmahera island in North Maluku, said a police officer in the neighboring district of Tobelo.

He named the villages as Pangeo, Kusobo and Soara but declined to provide further information. He said the security situation had since returned to normal.

Serious communal violence between Muslims and Christians first erupted in Ambon island in January 1999 and quickly spread to the other islands in the Malukus.

It has since left more than 5,000 people dead and over 500,000 refugees.

Morotai was the scene of heavy fighting between Allied and Japanese forces during World War II in 1944, as US General Douglas MacArthur fought his way back to the Philippines. *AFP*

India rules out border de-escalation

NEW YORK— India has ruled out any reduction of troops along its frontier with Pakistan where more than a million soldiers from the two nuclear-armed nations are massed and clashes are frequent.

India's Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha on Wednesday also said there would be no resumption of peace talks with Pakistan, a country with which it has fought three wars, two of them over claims to the Himalayan region of Kashmir.

"There is no chance of a dialogue, until and unless Pakistan puts an end to cross-border terrorism," Sinha said during his visit to New York for the UN General Assembly.

Sinha accused Pakistan's President Gen. Pervez Musharraf of ignoring promises he made to curb terrorism against India.

"Musharraf has to fulfill the promises he has made to the international community," Sinha said. "And if he does not, then I am afraid there is no atmosphere for dialogue."

The 700,000 troops India has deployed along its western border will remain because "the situation continues to be uncertain," he said.

"One doesn't know what they are up to, so we have to be on our guard," he said. *AP*

Russia asserts right to launch strikes on militants in Georgia

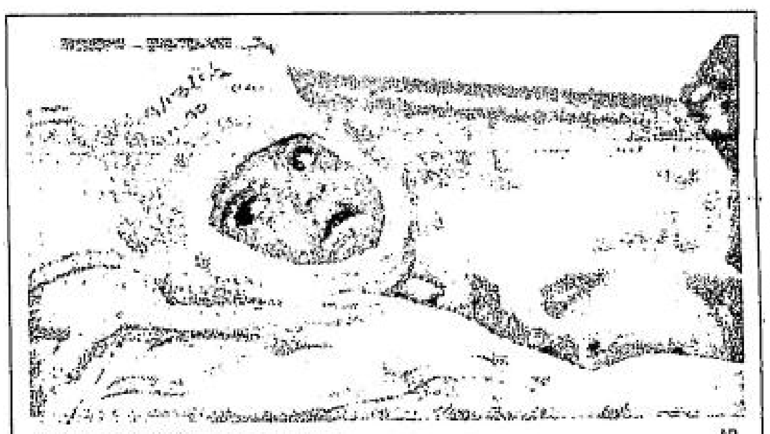
MOSCOW—Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said Moscow was prepared to unleash preventive strikes on militants in Georgia, and that he would give US officials evidence of a terrorist presence across Russia's southern border.

"If we see that bandits are headed in our direction and only 10-15 kilometers are left before the Russian-Georgian border, then there will be a strike because we don't have any other alternative," Ivanov was quoted as saying Wednesday by the Interfax news agency.

"If we see that from Georgian territory, once again, they are attempting or preparing an attack, then nobody is going to wait until they get to the border, disperse and start blowing up houses," Ivanov said in comments broadcast on Russian television.

Ivanov, along with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, was in Washington for meetings with US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell. The meetings are part of a series agreed on in May between US President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin to improve the two countries' cooperation in security.

Ivanov indicated he and his Foreign Ministry counterpart would use the forum to press Russia's case against Georgia, which Moscow accuses of providing shelter and aid to Chechen rebels and other terrorists. *AP*



AP

UNJOINED

Maria de Jesus Quiej Alvarez looks up as a nurse calls her name Sept. 13 UCLA's Mattel Children's Hospital in Los Angeles. A team of nearly 50 UCLA surgeons and nurses worked to separate Maria and her twin sister who were born joined at the head, during a nearly 23-hour surgeryAug. 6, 2002.

Work begins on 1,750-km Caspian Sea oil pipeline

SANGACHAL, Azerbaijan—The first section of an oil pipeline that will pump crude from the Caspian Sea to Turkey's Mediterranean coast was laid into the ground Wednesday at a ceremony that marked the start of construction work on the US-backed project.

The 2.95-billion-dollar (3.05-billion-euro) Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline poses a serious challenge to Russia's stranglehold on export routes from the oil-rich Caspian, which holds the world's third largest energy reserves.

The presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey—Heidar Aliyev, Eduard Shevardnadze and Ahmet Necdet Sezer—and US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham watched as a length of steel pipe was lowered into the ground during the ceremony held near Azerbaijan's capital Baku.

"The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline will take shape from this moment on," Aliyev said at the ceremony at the Sangachal terminal which will be the starting point for the pipeline once it is completed in 2005.

"Without this pipeline the resources of the Caspian Sea would have remained undeveloped and unavailable to world markets," Abraham said, signaling President George W. Bush's strong support for the project.

"The BTC pipeline is a central component in an east-west energy corridor which will bring far-reaching benefits to the countries of this region and to the rest of the world," Abraham said.

The Caspian Sea holds the world's third-largest reserves of oil and gas but two of the three existing oil export pipelines go through Russian territory—a situation Washington believes is harmful for global energy security.

The BTC pipeline will pump up to one million barrels of crude a day along the 1,750 kilometers (more than 1,000 miles) from Azerbaijan, through neighbouring Georgia to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan.

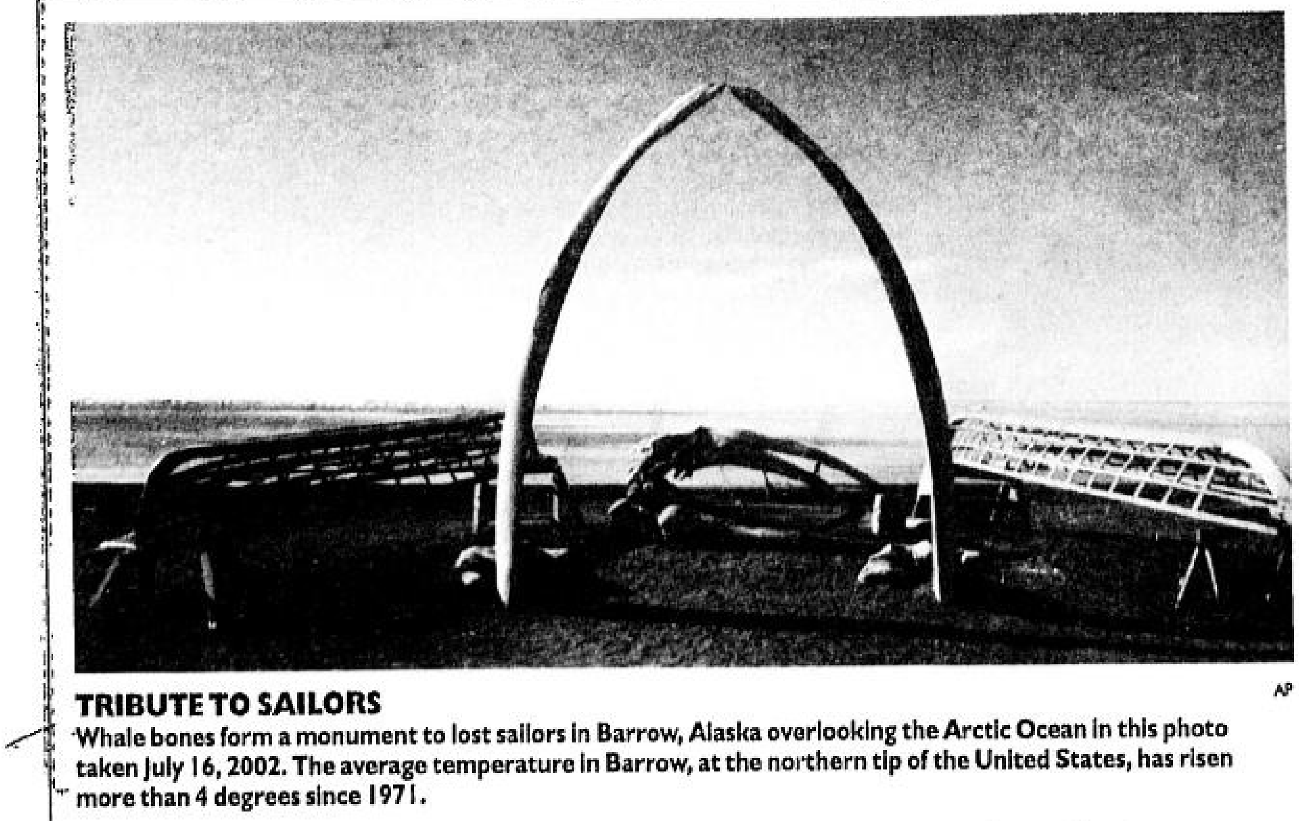
That is roughly the same distance as from New York to Miami or from London to southern Spain and much of the pipeline route is through rugged mountains, presenting a tough challenge for engineers.

The project was first proposed eight years ago but it has been delayed by political wrangling and arguments about its commercial viability. Until recently there were doubts that it would ever be built.

Many oil industry insiders criticised the project for being driven by political considerations instead of economic realities.

The pipeline was chosen ahead of two alternative routes for exporting Caspian oil, via Iran or Russia. Both would have been shorter and cheaper but were not politically acceptable to Washington.

Moscow has wanted nothing to do with the BTC project and officials there have repeatedly said it does not make economic sense. *AFP*



AP

TRIBUTE TO SAILORS

Whale bones form a monument to lost sailors in Barrow, Alaska overlooking the Arctic Ocean in this photo taken July 16, 2002. The average temperature in Barrow, at the northern tip of the United States, has risen more than 4 degrees since 1971.

Spoken Latin making comeback

ROME—The Roman poet Ovid may have put it best when he said "Rident stolidi verba Latina"—Fools laugh at the Latin language.

Indeed, after centuries of decline and declarations of being dead, Latin as a living, spoken language is making a comeback of sorts.

Take the recent scene in the mountains near Rome, where 30 Latin aficionados cavorted together, chanting odes by Horace in their original and pouring wine into a stream.

Before them was their guru, the Rev. Reginald Foster, a papal Latinist and a Carmelite monk from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who was barking commands in English and Latin.

Foster, 63, is a professor at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University, where he takes the unusual approach of teaching Latin as a living language.

He also runs a separate intense eight-week summer session for advanced students, which included the recent romp in the Roman hills at Horace's villa.

While Latin has not been spoken casually for over a thousand years and only its grammar and literature are typically studied today, the sounds of Cicero and Virgil are resurging among an increasingly wider audience, largely because of schools like his.

"I don't like certain methods, memorizing and jamming it, treating the language like a dead frog, or something like that," Foster said. Instead, his students learn sight reading, listening comprehension and Latin conversation.

Other schools using a similar approach include the University of Louvain in Belgium, a high school in Campania, Italy, and the University of Notre Dame and the University of Kentucky in the United States.

Dirk Sacre, a professor and neo-Latin expert at the University of Louvain, said spoken Latin is growing in popularity, citing an increase in the number of high school teachers signing up for courses.

"I don't think there's a general tendency to say that we're talking in Latin these days in schools or universities," Sacre said. "But, it's an acceleration, certainly. Seminars are happening more and more in Europe and the US, and there are more and more people trying to teach Latin as a living language." *AP*

China to share research on rice genome

BEIJING—China Thursday agreed to make freely available its latest research on mapping the rice genome, in a move expected to enhance the food security and livelihoods of millions of rice farmers around the world.

The Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) announced it would share sequencing information recently formulated on thousands of rice genes, in a format known as "a rice gene expression microarray."

The genes control essential characteristics of the rice plant, such as aroma, resistance to pests and diseases, and other important agronomic traits.

The announcement came at the ongoing International Rice Congress 2002 in Beijing.

Catch up

"We are keen to help scientists in the developing world catch up with their better-resourced and funded colleagues in the developed world, especially in accessing essential technologies that can benefit their own citizens," Dr. Yang Huanming, BGI director, said.

"We hope that the release of the rice gene microarray and our improved rice genome sequences will help to accelerate the annotation of the rice genome and speed up important research in rice biology and breeding," he added.

Although the functions of many genes are still undiscovered, scientists predict that the material will be instrumental in speeding the process of developing new rice varieties needed to help millions of poor rice farmers combat such problems as pests, diseases and drought.

Scientists at the congress hailed the BGI effort, describing it as one of the most significant developments in the history of modern rice research.

"The sequencing of the rice genome will be the first sequencing project to yield tangible results for humankind from the standpoints of food security and combating malnutrition," Ronald P. Cantrell, director general of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), said.

The rice microarray was developed by BGI based on the genome map of the indica subspecies of rice, which is grown in tropical and subtropical Asia.

BGI originally published the genome map in April in the journal Science. The microarray contains about 54,000 genes from a selected gene set. *AFP*

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Labor execs stop firm from duping job seekers

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Acting Labor Secretary Manuel Imson has directed his regional directors to coordinate with law enforcers to stop the recruitment activities of First Global Realty Corp. (FGGRC), which claimed to be funded by the World Bank and the wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The memorandum was issued after labor officials in Cebu were alarmed over reports that the FGGRC was offering job positions with lucrative salaries ranging from P30,000 to P1 million.

Imson also urged local executives and officers of the Public Employment Services Office to closely monitor and to immediately stop the recruitment.

He said the firm does not have a license to recruit workers or operate a placement agency, quoting a report issued by Ricardo Martinez, Department of Labor and Employment-Southern Tagalog regional director.

In his three-page report, Martinez said his office conducted an investigation after they received reports of massive recruitment conducted by the FGGRC branch in Calamba, Laguna.

He said he dispatched his men to apply for jobs in the firm's main office in Northgate, Filinvest, Alabang, Mutinlupa City.

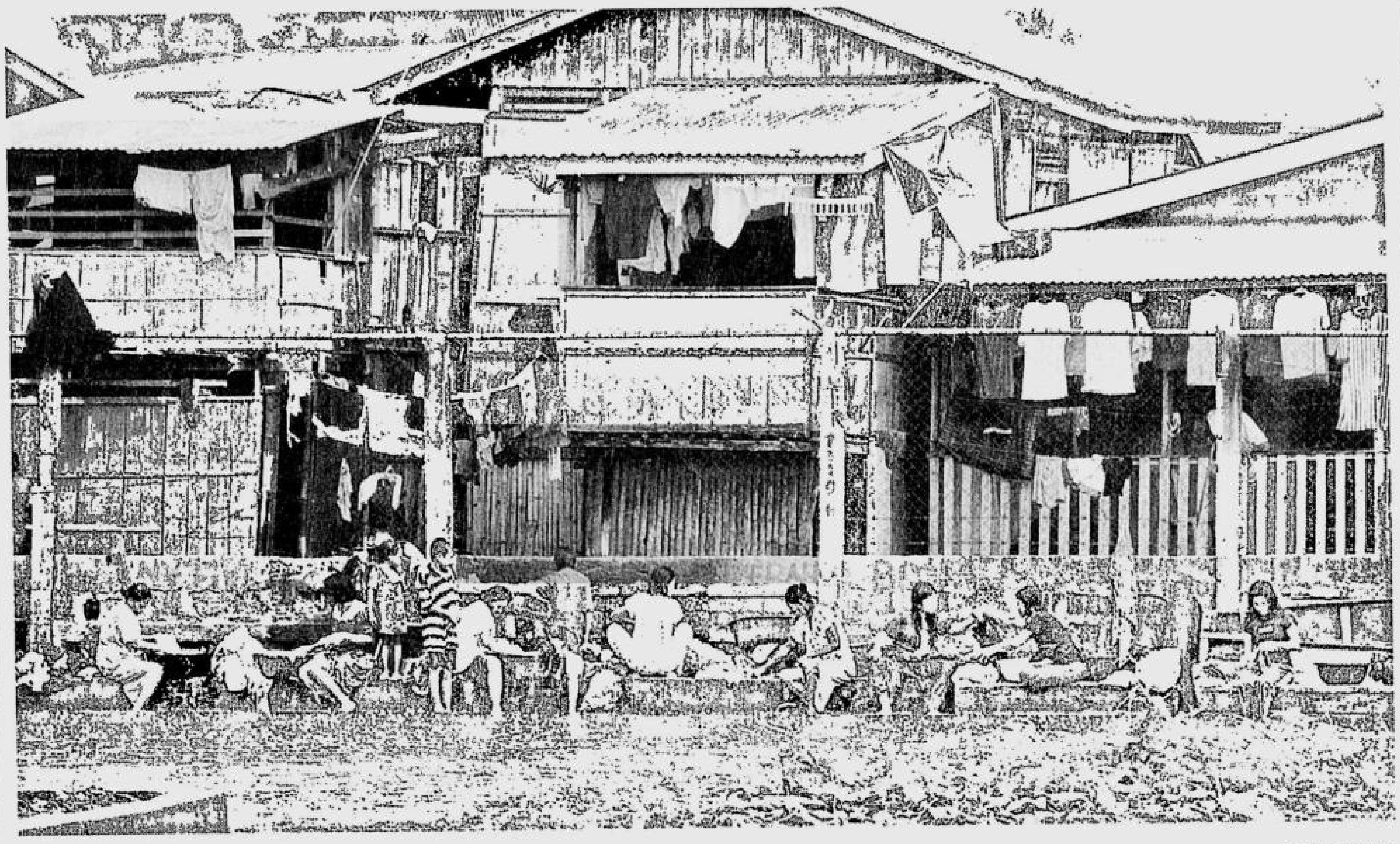
It was then, he said, that they learned that the FGGRC failed to secure a permit to recruit. He added they also found out that the company collected fees from the applicants—P10 for application fee, P1.50 for the application form and P60 for the ID pictures.

Martinez said the FGGRC offered jobs for various positions with lucrative salaries: P1 million for engineers, P37,500 for drivers, P67,000 for electricians and P30,000 for laborers.

He said the applicants would be sent to Quezon for a supposed airport project.

Martinez said the Laguna branch of FGGRC also failed to present a license to recruit.

Labor officials in Cebu City were alarmed after receiving report that about 30,000 people flocked to the Cebu City Sports Complex on Sept. 9 to apply for jobs offered by the FGGRC.



DENNIS SABANGAN

WASH DAY
Women in Jolo, Sulu take advantage of a dike that stores water for a community of Tausugs to wash clothes.

Ombudsman junks 4th plunder case against Chavit Singson

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—The winning streak of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson continued after the Ombudsman dismissed the plunder case filed against him by the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa) for insufficient evidence.

The plunder case was the fourth filed against Singson that was dismissed by the Ombudsman since July.

The 14-page resolution dismissing the case was issued on Aug. 21 but was signed by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr. only on Sept 5.

"This office finds that there is no sufficient ground to engender a well-founded belief that the offense charged has been committed, and that the public respondents are probably guilty thereof, and should be held for trial," the resolution said.

It said the complainants, led by Sisa president Nestor Segismundo, "failed to establish, by manifest and convincing evidence" that Singson and his co-accused acquired ill-gotten wealth "through the misuse of public funds in the total value of P900.905 million."

The charges against Singson's co-accused—provincial administrator Ma. Victoria Cu, budget officer Erlita Arce and treasurer Antonio Gundran—were also dismissed.

The Sisa accused Singson and the three officials of conspiring to commit plunder by misusing government funds.

The Ombudsman said the 2000 Commission on Audit (COA) report used by Sisa as major evidence against Singson and the three officials "reflects suspensions and disallowances amounting to P596,868,738.99 and P153,179,683.21."

"Still the COA report . . . never showed that the amounts subject to suspension or otherwise disallowed, have redounded to the personal benefit of (Singson and the officials)," it said.

The Ombudsman said the complainants failed to establish that the respondents obtained ill-gotten wealth through graft.

Singson was elated with the Ombudsman's resolution.

"As I had predicted, all the cases filed against me would eventually be dismissed . . . If I committed such alleged huge anomalies, I could have been jailed right now like Erap (former President Joseph Estrada)," Singson told the INQUIRER.

However, the Sisa denounced the Ombudsman resolution.

"The decision being churned out by the Ombudsman comes as another manifestation of Chavit's hold on the neck of GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo). The only hope remaining is for us to strive for the removal of (Ms Macapagal) from office," Segismundo told the INQUIRER.

Threats to peace keep funds for P1.1-B road project from coming in

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The unstable peace and order situation in Mindanao has been hampering the government's effort to finalize a loan package that help finance the Iligan-Bukidnon road project that is worth at least P1.1 billion.

The road project stretches to about 185.27 kilometer from Iligan City. It passes through Talakag, Bukidnon and ends in Barangay Aglayan, Malaybalay City.

The Department of Public Works and Highways, the project proponent, has again put the project up for funding under the 26th Yen Loan Package of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The series of atrocities in Mindanao, particularly the bombing in Ozamiz City and the all-out-war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in 2000 under the then Estrada administration, have stalled the inspection that was required for the JBIC loan to be approved.

Michael Ignacio, the information officer of the Cagayan-Iligan Corridor, told the INQUIRER how the unstable peace and order situatioin in Mindanao has adversely affected the multibillion-peso projects on the island that could have brought in foreign investors.

The loan assistance was disapproved after a series of appraisal missions from Japan were aborted due to peace and order problems. Now, the government is again banking on its latest loan application and has expressed hope that the appraisal missions could proceed.

"How unfair it is that the project is being stalled due to peace and order (problems). Yet, it plays an important role in the development of CIC (Cagayan-Iligan Corridor) growth area and the Bukidnon Integrated Area Development Programme that eventually could also improve Mindanao's position in the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area," Ignacio said.

"Even if there was an ongoing construction at the various sections in the Iligan side amounting to P48.39 million from the DPWH-12 infrastructure budget, it could not also suffice (to meet) the need to hasten the project that could boost the food security program of the government."

The Environmental Management Bureau has already issued its Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) to the DPWH after it has complied with its final requirement—the holding of public consultations on the social acceptability of the project. The ECC was issued in October 2001.

The project got the approval of the National Economic Development Authority-Investment Coordinating Council in 1999.

The ICC found the project technically and economically viable. ***Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Benguet execs tag traders in veggie smuggling

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The Benguet provincial board has identified the suspected smugglers of temperate vegetables coming from China, Taiwan and other countries.

Board Member Johnny Uy said he gave the names of the five major smugglers to Agriculture Undersecretary Ernesto Ordonez, who heads a Department of Agriculture task force formed to stop the smuggling.

But Uy, a vegetable farmer and the former mayor of Atok town, said he could not yet divulge the names of the smugglers pending action of the task force.

He only described the smugglers as "Chinese-Filipino businessmen."

He said the task force already stopped the distribution of six container vans of imported carrots, potatoes, cabbages and lettuce in Divisoria.

He said the vans were declared to contain ponkan oranges but actually carried assorted vegetables from China.

Uy said the task force is still investigating if smuggled vegetables were also unloaded in other Philippine ports like Subic, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

He said prices of vegetables from Atok, Buguias and La Trinidad towns have dropped due to cheap smuggled vegetables.

"Carrots can now be bought for P5 a kilogram. That's ridiculous," Uy said.

He said trading of vegetables in Metro Manila had been very slow the past month. "This shows that smuggling is already prevalent," he said. ***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Sayyaf demand for talks to free hostages rejected

JOLO, Sulu—The Abu Sayyaf has insisted on its earlier demand for negotiations for the release of its hostages, according to Gov. Yusop Jikiri.

Jikiri told the INQUIRER that an unidentified woman approached Patikul Vice Mayor Esmon Suhuri informing him that the Abu Sayyaf was asking the military to stop the pursuit operation and give at least P5 million for the "release of all hostages."

The Abu Sayyaf is holding female Jehovah's Witnesses Cleofe Montulo, Florida Montulo, Emily Mantic and Nori Bendijo. Another group of armed men is holding Indonesians Muntu Jacobus Winowatan, Jul Kipli and Pieter Lerrich.

Jikiri said he refused to negotiate.

"I don't agree with the demand as well as the negotiation because it will only inspire these bandits to do more violent activities here," he said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes rejected the demand.

"No! No! No! This is nothing but tactic to delay or to cause our operations to be derailed we will not succumb to that," Reyes said.

"Negotiation is nothing but a tactic to delay the process and whenever they asked for stop to the operation, it means that they are having trouble, so we will pursue," he added. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Court orders arrest of ex-solon for poll violence

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Regional Trial Court issued on Tuesday an arrest warrant against a former congressman who was implicated in the 2001 election day gunfight in an island-town in Samar that left three persons wounded.

Executive Judge Sinforiano A. Monsanto of the RTC Branch 29 in Catbalogan, Samar, recommended a bail bond of P120,000 each for former Samar second district Rep. Catalino Figueroa and five others who were accused of attempted murder.

Monsanto also issued another arrest warrant against Figueroa for violation of the Omnibus Election Code.

The judge issued the arrest warrants after the Department of Justice dismissed the petition of the accused to reverse a DOJ recommendation to file the charges in court.

Jose Mendiola, lawyer of complainant Samuel Lim, yesterday told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview from his office in Catbalogan that he learned Figueroa had posted bail.

The other accused are Diosdado Gabuay, Jovencio Matarum, Julio Fabilane and Romeo Bito.

The cases stemmed from a gunfight between Figueroa's group and that of lawyer Charlie Lim, Samuel's nephew, on May 14, 2001 in Barangay Tinaogan in Zumarraga, Samar.

Charlie was the son of then incumbent Zumarraga Mayor Casilda C. Lim who was seeking another term. Her opponent was Neliptha Figueroa, the former congressman's wife who eventual won the mayoralty race.

Figueroa was a congressional candidate but lost to Rep. Antonio Nachura who sought reelection.

Figueroa's group was on board a speedboat on the way to the poblacion of Zumarraga from Catbalogan. The other group came from Zumarraga and was bound for Catbalogan.

Figueroa was then accompanied, among others, by Gabuay who was his police escort. On board Lim's boat were two soldiers who hitched a ride to Catbalogan.

Gov't officials snub confab on coco industry

OROQUIETA CITY—Coconut farmers here have decried the absence of government representatives, including from the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), from Monday's conference where moves to revitalize the local coconut industry were discussed.

Out of the invited agencies, only the Department of Trade and Industry sent a representative to the conference, which was the first ever attempt here to map out a direction for coconut farming as a livelihood.

Vicente Bual, president of Combined Organization of Coco Farmers in Oroquieta (COCO-Oroquieta), said the apparent lack of interest of most agencies here showed that the government was not serious in the effort to revive the troubled coconut industry.

"In a way their gesture revealed to us a very important reality: We really have to depend on ourselves to look after our own welfare," Bual said in the vernacular.

Fausto Tajos, a coconut farmer in Senote village here, said the welfare of the farmers should have been one of the government's concerns.

"We deserve the attention of government being its constituents," he said.

A study recently released by the Philippine Network of Rural Development Institutes (Philnet-RDI) said problems besetting Oroquieta's coconut farms were so complex that solving them required the cooperation of various agencies of the government.

These problems included land tenure improvement (LTI) concerns, and technological and capital deficiencies.

The same study recommended that a comprehensive approach that involves the government, the coconut farmers and nongovernment organizations, be formulated "in order to effectively address the inherent hindrances to the industry's full development."

More than 50 percent of the land in Misamis Occidental were devoted to coconut farming and in recent years, the province was considered one of the country's top coconut producers.

Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Warning out on spoiled sardines brand

DAVAO CITY—The Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) has warned the public against buying Young's Town canned sardines which are considered spoiled and unfit for human consumption.

BFAD regional chief Edith Reyes said her office has received an official order from their head office last week to monitor in the market the presence of Young's Town Mackerel sardines in tomato sauce, specified as Lot No. 21504 and Lot No. 12504 with expiry dates in December 2004.

Reyes said BFAD laboratory findings show that the sardines contained "soft-bodied worms" that could not be seen by the naked eyes and are unfit for human consumption.

But Reyes clarified that only the Youngstown sardines in green packaging have been banned.

She said the spoiled sardines were first detected in Legaspi City.

In Cagayan Valley, officials of the Maunlad Canning Corp., manufacturer of the Young's Town sardines, decried reports that their products were withdrawn from stores in the region due to the presence of "worm-like" strands.

"The company was a victim of fake products and sabotage," Lapaz Ngo, Maunlad vice president and treasurer, said in a statement. He said the products meet high quality standards and specifications.

The Bureau of Food and Drugs on July 17 ordered the recall of Young's Town Lots No. 21504 and 12504 distributed in Cagayan Valley and the Ilocos.

Maunlad officials said they were surprised by the Department of Health's warning.

They said the "streaks of white thread-like strands of vascular tissue" found in the products were ligaments or linings found in the fish's stomach. They said these are edible and not harmful to health because these are parts of the fish. *Villamor Visaya Jr. and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

5 cops linked to killing of driver relieved

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Five policemen linked to the slaying of a truck driver here were relieved and transferred to the regional police headquarters.

Maria Castillo earlier tagged the suspects in the killing of her husband Gerardo in July this year as Chief Insp. Ernesto Achanzar, SPO2 David Gutiering, PO2 Antonio Pagulayan, PO2 Hector Tubangui and PO1 Raymund Basilio, all of the Tuguegarao City police. She said her husband was stabbed and killed inside a police van.

Castillo claimed the suspects threatened her family and challenged them to produce their witnesses to the killing.

In a letter to Malacañang, she asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the police to dismiss the suspects "so that they could not influence the (case) and could not intimidate us, especially the witnesses."

Castillo filed cases against the suspects before the Office of the Ombudsman. A separate administrative case was also filed before the Philippine National Police's provincial internal affairs service.

Senior Supt. Ricardo Padilla, Cagayan police director, said the Ombudsman has yet to issue a resolution on the arrest of the suspects.

"In fact, I asked the Criminal Investigation and Detection Team to investigate the matter and to have an independent probe. I do not side with anybody here," Padilla said.

He said he decided to order the relief of Achanzar and his men so that they would not influence the case.

Padilla said the policemen denied involvement in the crime.

Reports said Gerardo Castillo was picked up by policemen in a bar in this city and was beaten up, stabbed and killed inside a police van.

His body was dumped in a garbage mound in Barangay Ballacayu in San Pablo, Isabela, on July 17.

Castillo's affidavit said Gutiering saw Gerardo standing in front of his motorcycle. The policeman reportedly scolded Gerardo and proceeded to beat him up.

Castillo said witnesses saw Achanzar and the four policemen attack her husband.

Castillo also said her husband was carrying P47,000 to buy a motorcycle. She said her husband's money, a wristwatch, wedding ring and a bag containing automotive tools were missing. *Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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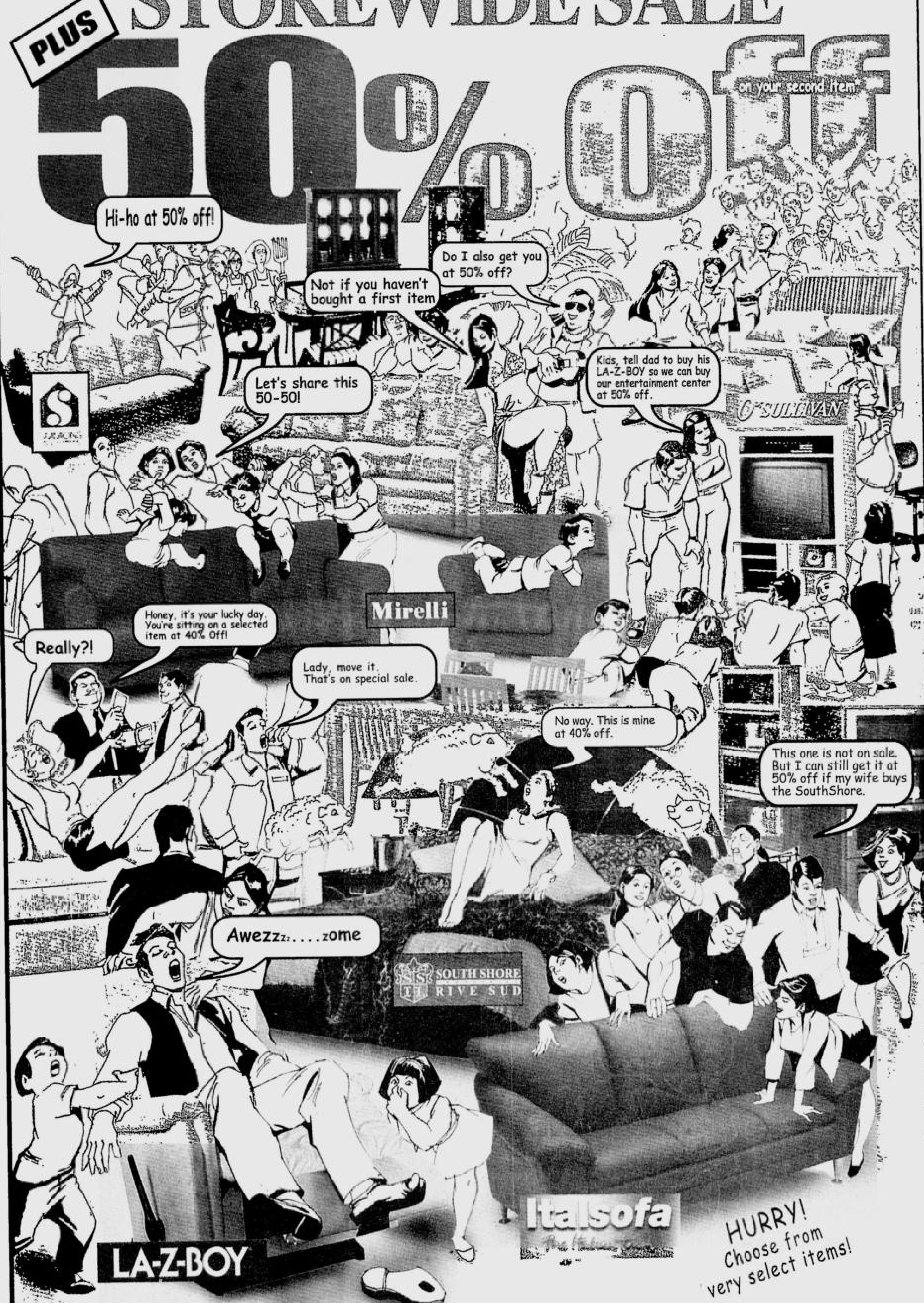
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GMA orders GSIS, PEA to explain

From page A1

ling for the road project, award of the project to a contractor, implementation of the project, and the payment of contractors by the PEA."

Garcia said that the loan was secured by a collateral of 11.21 hectares of land with an appraised value of P4 billion, or four times the value of the land. "And this is just the current appraised value of the loan. We expect the land value to rise once the proposed developments in the area are in place, including SM's Mall of Asia. Thus, we can say that GSIS is more than fully protected in this loan transaction," he said.

He added that the GSIS would earn P700 million from the loan after five years.

Sulficio Tagud Jr., a director of the PEA, blew the whistle on the alleged scam *(Story on Page A1)*, which he said could have been the result of a collusion between the PEA and contractor Jesusito D. Legaspi Construction (JDLC). But PEA Chair Ernest Villareal said the JDLC contract "appears to be in order."

Tagud said the contract was awarded in 1999 during the term of then President Joseph Estrada but the alleged "price escalation" was approved by the PEA board appointed during the Macapagal administration.

Estrada said he knew no one by the name of Jesusito Legaspi. "Nor do I have a friend in the Jesusito D. Legaspi Construction," he said in a statement.

64th birthday

"As I can recall, the Public Estates Authority board then headed by Frisco San Juan approved P500 million for the construction of the 5.1-km road at the Manila Bay reclamation area parallel to Roxas Boulevard. In fact, I was supposed to inaugurate the road on my 64th birthday on April 19, 2001," Estrada said. It was Ms Macapagal who inaugurated the road in April.

"There is no question that the eight-lane asphalt road . . . was grossly overpriced by as much as P600 million, or 120 percent more than the actual amount. Who made a killing from the price escalation should be promptly investigated and those responsible charged in the appropriate courts," Estrada said.

He said the GSIS should be investigated for extending the loan to the road project. "I find this highly irregular since the GSIS could hardly meet the loan requests from its members numbering millions and yet, the current board of directors approved the P1-billion loan for the construction of the PDMA," the deposed President said.

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal ordered the PEA and GSIS to forward their explanations to Chief Presidential Legal Adviser Avelino Cruz for evaluation.

Asked about the alleged overpricing at a press briefing in Malacañang, Finance Undersecretary Jose Camacho said: "We should be concerned and we should make sure that it should be properly investigated.

"Part of our fiscal reform program is not only raising revenues but being more efficient in expenditures," Camacho said. "I'm very confident that there will be an appropriate investigation."

Biazon noted that the Manila Bay reclamation area had been the subject of too many controversies in the past.

Milking cow

Another opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the overpricing scam was a "brazen attempt of an influential group to make a milking cow out of the PEA."

Pimentel assailed the apparent lack of transparency within the PEA management. "Elementary rules of transparency were flagrantly violated resulting in the breakdown of the system of checks and balance aimed at preventing irregularities," he said.

He said PEA officials could be held liable for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act should it be proven that payments were made to JDLC without the approval of the cost adjustments by the Office of the President.

Pimentel said the reported anomaly would have been avoided if there was a law that would compel public officials and contractors to strictly observe transparency and to comply with regulations on public works contracts.

He said the scam highlighted the need for a Magna Carta for Business that would, among others, require businessmen and public officials to be transparent in all deals involving the government.

Garcia said the loan contract was reviewed by the National Economic and Development Authority and the Department of Finance before it received final approval. The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel also gave its clearance to the loan contract between the GSIS and PEA before the first tranche of P600 million was released to the PEA last month.

The loan carries a fixed interest rate equivalent to a yield-to-maturity for five-year Philippine fixed rate treasury notes (PFRT), but should not be lower than 14 percent. At present, PFRTs only pay 9.5 percent. This means that GSIS earns a lot more from the PEA loan than investing its funds in the PFRTs, according to Garcia. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo, Clarissa Batino, Rocky Nazareno and Juliet Javellana***

Prankster summons top PEA execs to Palace

Juliet L. Javellana

WHILE the new scandal rocked the Public Estates Authority, its two highest officials fell prey to pranksters yesterday.

PEA chair Ernest Villareal and general manager Benjamin Cariño rushed to Malacañang after receiving a call from Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo.

The two officials canceled their appointments and scampered to Malacañang only to find out at the Palace sentry gate that nobody summoned them.

Cariño's secretary, who received the call after 8 a.m., swore that the man on the line sounded like Romulo.

"Is this the office of the chairman? I want him and the general manager to come to Malacañang right now," the man on the phone, who was purportedly Romulo, said. The secretary promptly told her boss and relayed the message to Villareal's secretary.

The Palace guards, after calling Romulo's office, told the two officials that he did not call them. Neither did the Office of the President.

"We were fooled," Villareal told Cariño as they left the sentry.

Contractor, PEA execs accuse Tagud of extortion

By Juliet L. Javellana

FOR exposing the grossly overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue, Sulficio O. Tagud Jr., director of the Public Estates Authority, was accused of extortion. He also received death threats.

Tagud said he had received phone threats after he vigorously questioned the P600 million alleged oveprice by Jesusito D. Legaspi Construction (JDLC), the contractor of 2.3 km of the 5.1-km asphalt road at the Manila Bay reclamation area.

But PEA Chair Ernest Villareal, PEA general manager Benjamin Cariño and director Rodolfo Tuazon defended the contract awarded to JDLC as aboveboard. They said the "cost adjustments" were allowed by law.

"Mag-ingat ka sa ginagawa mo, baka makasagasa ka ng ibang tao," Tagud quoted one caller as telling him. Another call warned him: *"Hindi na maganda ang ginagawa mo."*

Tagud said one such threat was made to him directly by Tuazon, a fellow PEA director and former congressman.

"He did (threaten me). He asked me to approve the contract and when I said no, he said 'Mahirap akong kalaban'," Tagud said.

Asked to comment on Tagud's charge, Tuazon said: "I threatened him with an investigation." Tuazon, a three-term congressman of Western Samar prior to his appointment in the PEA, said Tagud "preempted" PEA's investigation of him on a P2.1-million extortion.

Tagud dismissed the charge as a squid tactic. "I will not even dignify that. Let's stick to the issue. This project is anomalous and overpriced," Tagud told the INQUIRER.

"If I received money, then why am I complaining? Since they cannot defend this anomaly, they are now trying to destroy me," he said.

It was Villareal who first disclosed the alleged extortion activities of Tagud. He said Tagud, through PEA assistant general manager Pelagio Lalap, had extorted P2.1 million from Legaspi, the contractor. Villareal said Lalap was slapped a 90-day preventive suspension on Tuesday over another extortion case in which Tagud was also allegedly involved.

"He confirmed to one of our directors (Tuazon) that he kept P300,000 and the rest he gave to Director Tagud," Villareal told the INQUIRER.

Legaspi, 39, confirmed the extortion, but said he only gave P2.1 million in cash and issued a P14-million check which he eventually did not fund.

"Ngayon lang ako nakakita ng ganyan kawalanghiyang tao. Matapos mabigyan...," Legaspi said. Legaspi built the domestic airport and Rizal Memorial Coliseum during the Aquino administration. He also built the Mabini Hall and renovated the Department of Foreign Affairs building during the Ramos administration.

Legaspi said that sometime in November, Lalap met with him in a hotel to ask him for 15 percent of the P42 million in price adjustment he was then asking the PEA board to approve.

"He said 'the board, except the chair and general manager, will divide the money,'" Legaspi said quoting Lalap.

Militants . . .

From page A1

tary general Wilson Paguyo said the "Piso para kay Prof. Joma campaign" would be conducted in schools and other public places in Metro Manila "to shore up Joma's present condition in Utrecht, which is (far from) the malicious rumors being (peddled) by his detractors and critics that he is living a lavish lifestyle."

"(The proceeds) will be sent to him for the purpose of helping a patriot who is in need," Paguyo said in a press statement.

Sison is the chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front, with which the Philippine government had been engaged in peace negotiations. He is facing the prospect of being homeless with the Dutch government cutting off his social welfare benefits.

Paguyo said the Dutch government also froze Sison's joint bank account with his wife, Julieta Sison-de Lima, containing "only 1,000 euros (or P55,000)." Sison had said the bank account received cash remittances from the Dutch government as welfare benefits.

On Aug. 12, the US state department tagged the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, as foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) whose assets must be frozen.

Paguyo described Sison as "a good teacher, a true Filipino freedom fighter, a good friend, father and comrade," and said Anakbayan was denouncing the United States and the "puppet Philippine government" for "their scheme to demonize him."

The youth leader also condemned the Dutch government, saying its recent moves against Sison might be a preview to its handing him over to US authorities.

In a speech at a press conference Thursday in Utrecht, a copy of which was sent to the INQUIRER in Lucena City, Sison said more persecution was coming his way.

He said this involved "a publicized raid on my apartment and possible arrest to degrade me before the Dutch public, terrorist listing at the European level, provisional detention upon request of the US government, and extradition to a US territory."

"I am supposed to serve as the example for targeting by the unchallengeable and unstoppable power of the US if the NDF will not capitulate to the (Philippine government) in a sham peace agreement," he said.

Sison reiterated his stand that the US government was wrong in labeling the CPP-NPA as "terrorist."

"The terrorism of those responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks (on the United States) is horribly unjust," he said. "But it is also unjust for the US government to engage in far larger acts of terrorism by using the ... attacks as the pretext or license for misrepresenting as 'terrorist' the highly principled revolutionary forces and movements of national liberation, democracy and socialism."

International support

In Baguio City, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said international human rights advocates were lobbying to prevent Sison's extradition to the United States.

Ocampo said US President George W. Bush had "sent his order to the Dutch government," and "the next step could be (Sison's) extradition to the United States where he will go on trial for terrorism."

The US Patriot Act, and several other US anti-terrorism laws, already apply extrajudicial measures against immigrants and American-born Arabs and Asians who are suspected of harboring or associating with terrorist groups, Ocampo told the North Luzon Peace and Human Rights Summit in Baguio.

"That is probably why the Dutch government (cut off Sison's welfare subsidies). The US has declared that all countries that harbor terrorists are themselves terrorists, and the Netherlands did not want to be considered a terrorist by the Americans," he said half in jest.

With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Who is Tagud?

From page A1

friends and former colleagues.

"Keep up the good fight," said a former colleague from Ayala Land Inc. "But this is not a fight," Tagud said. "This is just an exposê of a wrongdoing in the agency where I work." Tagud is a director of the Public Estates Authority.

Last night, Tagud called his 84-year-old mother in Cagayan de Oro City. "She is worried. My three children are worried. My sisters and brothers are worried. But they are not asking me to back out. I speak out when I am right and they know that," he said.

"The intention is not to make a big thing out of it," he said. "The intention is to bring out the wrongdoing to the board (of the PEA), to President Macapagal-Arroyo and to the Commission on Audit," he said.

He said he had no agenda. In fact, he said he was just applying what he learned from the series of corporate governance seminars conducted by Dr. Jesus Estanislao for government executives. The seminars were endorsed by Ms Macapagal.

"The President is always talking about transparency, but there is no transparency (in the PEA). There is fraud," he said.

A visibly distressed Tagud showed up three hours late for an interview with selected reporters yesterday afternoon.

He arrived with two friends and a stack of documents kept inside a Manila envelope. The documents supported his claim that the PDMA was overpriced by P600 million.

He said he never thought he would end up a "whistle blower" in yet another scam. But he was bracing for the worst, including death threats.

The fifth of seven children, Tagud spent his childhood in Cagayan de Oro City. He went to Xavier University High School and got a scholarship at the Xavier University (Ateneo de Cagayan) for his college education. He stayed away from student activists and just wanted to finish college, supporting himself as a student assistant for Fr. William Nicholson, an economist.

Tagud finished BSBA Major in Economics, magna cum laude, in 1972. He proceeded to the Center for Research Communication for his Masters in Economics, and enrolled at the Ateneo de Manila University for his MBA while working at the PDCP (Private Development Corp. of the Philippines).

From 1976 to 1996, Tagud worked with the Ayala Group of Companies, first with Ayala Investment, then at the Bank of the Philippine Islands and later on at the Ayala Land Inc. where he became the general manager of Cebu Holdings and the Cebu Property Ventures Inc. which developed the Cebu Business Park in Lahug, Cebu City.

At Ayala Land, Tagud worked with Vicky Garchitorena, who was the executive director of Ayala Foundation. One of their joint projects was the relocation of squatters from the site where the Cebu Business Park was built.

He thinks it was Garchitorena who nominated him to the board of the PEA. "I really have no idea. I was informed that I was going to be a PEA director and I reported in July last year."

Or it could have been Sen. Manuel Villar, who was also Tagud's former employer. In 1998, Tagud worked as chair of the Villar's Camella and Palmera Homes. He is also served as consultant for the Pryce Group, which owns Pryce Hotels.

When Tagud started questioning the J.D. Legaspi contract last month, Villar was among the first to receive a "derogatory" report about Tagud. "Senator Villar called me because he was told that I was an extortionist," he said.

The allegations about Tagud's alleged extortion activities was just the beginning. On Monday evening, Tagud had a dialogue with his three college-age children. "I told them about what I learned (from the scam). I told them about the possible consequences and the possible derogatory statements and they gave me their support," he said.

But seeing his name in the newspapers and on television jarred the Tagud family. Still, he remains steadfast. "A lot of people may call me a fool. Others may doubt my person but I can stand by my record," he said.

Bush seeks Congress OK for plan to attack Iraq

From page A1

Democrats have called for caution, both Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt said they supported Bush on the issue.

"We want to make sure that whatever we do, we make the right decision," said Rep. Solomon Ortiz, a Texas Democrat.

Russia and France, two of the five Security Council members with veto power, were against any new UN resolutions concerning Iraq, as were Arab nations. Rumsfeld and Bush dismissed Saddam's latest offer as a ploy to stall for time.

"He's not going to fool anybody," Bush said after meeting with congressional leaders Wednesday.

While UN officials in New York prepared for the inspectors' return, US and British officials began working on a new UN resolution aimed at authorizing use of force should Baghdad fail to comply with Security Council resolutions.

Western diplomats said the US-British draft likely would include new instructions for weapons inspectors and a timetable for disarmament that would be tighter than one laid out in an existing resolution passed in December 1999.

Britain, which helps the United States patrol the no-fly zone over southern Iraq, has been the staunchest public ally for Bush's threats of war. Rumsfeld said several other US allies have said privately they would support a military strike against Iraq, but he declined to say which countries or how many.

Afraid of Saddam

"There are a number of countries afraid of Saddam Hussein" and therefore reluctant to let their cooperation be known publicly, Rumsfeld said.

Although Rumsfeld said Bush had not decided whether to wage war against Iraq, his comments left little room for any other option. Removing Saddam, Rumsfeld said, was the only way to ensure that Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs were completely destroyed—and not secretly given to terrorists.

"Our job today—the president's, the Congress' and the United Nations'—is to . . . anticipate vastly more lethal attacks before they happen and to make the right decision as to whether ... it's appropriate for this country to take action," Rumsfeld said.

Rumsfeld suggested that Iraq had concealed evidence of its weapons programs in a labyrinth of tunnels and other elaborate hiding places, certain to complicate and prolong any new inspection effort.

"The goal is not inspections, the goal is disarmament," Rumsfeld said.

Rumsfeld said the Pentagon would have to call up more National Guard and Reserve forces if Bush decided to invade Iraq. More than 72,000 reservists have been called to active duty so far in the war on terrorism, and more than 20,000 soldiers in key specialties have been blocked from leaving active duty.

But there's "not a chance" that a draft would be needed to augment US military forces, Rumsfeld told the House panel.

Annan's efforts

At the UN headquarters in New York, Secretary General Kofi Annan earlier urged Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri in a meeting to cooperate with the weapons inspectors Iraq has agreed to readmit, Annan's spokesperson said.

The half-hour meeting was the second between the two men since Monday, when Sabri gave Annan a letter saying Iraq was willing to let the inspectors return unconditionally after a hiatus of almost four years.

The meeting included the chief UN arms inspector, Hans Blix, who was to brief the Security Council late Thursday on the practical arrangements for taking up the Iraqi offer.

Deciding what Iraq must do to comply with its disarmament requirements is up to the UN Security Council, not Baghdad, US state department spokesperson Richard Boucher said.

"We're getting to the point where the council can be specifying what it wants and not accept the Iraqi letter as the be all and end all of what Iraq has to do," Boucher told reporters, referring to the Iraqi missive sent to Annan.

"We think the inspectors should have the right to go anywhere, anytime, talk to anyone, look in any place that they need to do their job," Boucher said. ***Reports from AP and AFP***

Supreme Court: P6.5-B Photokina contract illegal

From page A1

were elated over the ruling. Alfredo Benipayo, who fought a losing battle inside the poll body against four Estrada appointees led by Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, said the "very good" SC decision should serve as a lesson for the Comelec leadership to "do things in accordance with the law and rules."

"It is really hard to go against what the law says. You will always lose," said Benipayo, a former SC court administrator and associate justice at the Court of Appeals.

Harriet Demetriou, who objected to the awarding of the contract to Photokina, said she was "very glad."

"I feel justified. We saved the Filipino taxpayers billions of pesos," said Demetriou, who was also a former associate justice of the Sandiganbayan.

Four commissioners

The decision apparently took Tancangco and fellow commissioners Ralph Lantion, Mehol Sadain and Rufino Javier by surprise.

Tancangco said she wanted to review the decision first before issuing any comments. The four commissioners had filed a manifestation before the SC supporting Photokina.

Photokina itself said the consortium would "exhaust all legal avenues" and possibly file a motion for reconsideration to protect its interest.

"We still believe in the validity of our position," Photokina spokesperson George Balagtas said in a phone interview. The firm has yet to receive a copy of the decision, he added.

Even incumbent Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said he would like to see the decision first before commenting. He did say that he stood by his earlier pronouncements to abide by whatever the SC decides.

Tancangco was head of the modernization committee that endorsed the VRIS to the Comelec. The en banc approved Resolution No. 3252 awarding the VRIS project to Photokina in September 2000.

Not absolute

In ruling against Photokina, the high court emphasized that the power of government officials to enter into contracts with private entities was not absolute.

"The contracting prerogative of public officers is circumscribed with a heavy burden of responsibility. They must exercise utmost caution and observe the law in order to protect the public from unjust and inequitable government contracts," the court said.

The SC then granted the petition of Comelec to set aside the resolutions favoring Photokina issued by Judge Ma. Luisa Quijano-Padilla, presiding judge of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 215.

The SC also dismissed the special civil action docketed as Q-01-45405 with the QC RTC, which earlier granted Photokina's application for preliminary prohibitory injunction.

Crucial question

The ruling stemmed from a petition for certiorari filed by the Office of the Solicitor General on behalf of former Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr. The three were named to the poll body by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In scrutinizing the deal, the high court said it had to answer the question: May a successful bidder compel a government agency to formalize a contract with it even if its bid exceeds the amount appropriated by Congress for the project?

In answering the legal dilemma, the SC relied on the 1987 Constitution, which mandates that "no money shall be paid out of the treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation made by law."

"Thus, in the execution of government contracts, the precise import of this constitutional restriction is to require the various agencies to limit their expenditures within the appropriations made by law for each fiscal year," said the SC.

The SC pointed out the existence of appropriations and the availability of funds were "indispensable prerequisites to or conditions for the execution of government contracts."

"To hold otherwise is to allow a public officer to execute a binding contract that would obligate the government in an amount in excess of the appropriations for the purpose for which the contract was attempted to be made. This is a dangerous precedent," the SC added.

"Clearly," it said, "the amount appropriated is insufficient to cover the cost of the entire VRIS project. There is no way that the Comelec could enter into a contract with Photokina" whose accepted bid was beyond the amount appropriated by Congress.

The SC said that the Comelec bids and awards committee should have withdrawn the Notice of Award on the ground that "in the eyes of the law, the same is null and void."

The objections of Demetriou and Benipayo "are therefore in order."

Both Demetriou and Benipayo had rejected the deal because Republic Act No. 8760, the General Appropriations Act for 2000, appropriated only P1 billion for Comelec's modernization program, which includes the VRIS.

Also, the actual available funds under the Certificate of Availability of Funds issued by the Chief Accountant of Comelec stood at only P1.2 billion.

The VRIS is an offshoot of the Voters' Registration Act of 1996, which envisions a computerized database system for the May 2004 elections.

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Nation Petroleum On The Rise.

How it all started

Nation Petroleum traces its humble beginnings to Candelaria, Quezon when it began as a LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) refilling station in 1995. Back then, it catered mostly to the local folk and neighboring towns – supplying LPG to meet day-to-day cooking needs. Soon after, they began to accommodate demand from Lucena and other provinces in South Luzon, even stretching to Bicol Region.

But it was 1999 that proved to be the breakout year for this budding enterprise. The passage of the Oil Deregulation Law provided the window of opportunity to expand the business. Management decided immediately to put up a petroleum depot in Sariaya, as well as refilling stations in Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon.

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Nation Petroleum's core business is LPG. The company sources its supply independently to offer safe LPG tanks as well as high-quality LPG products.

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Nation at large

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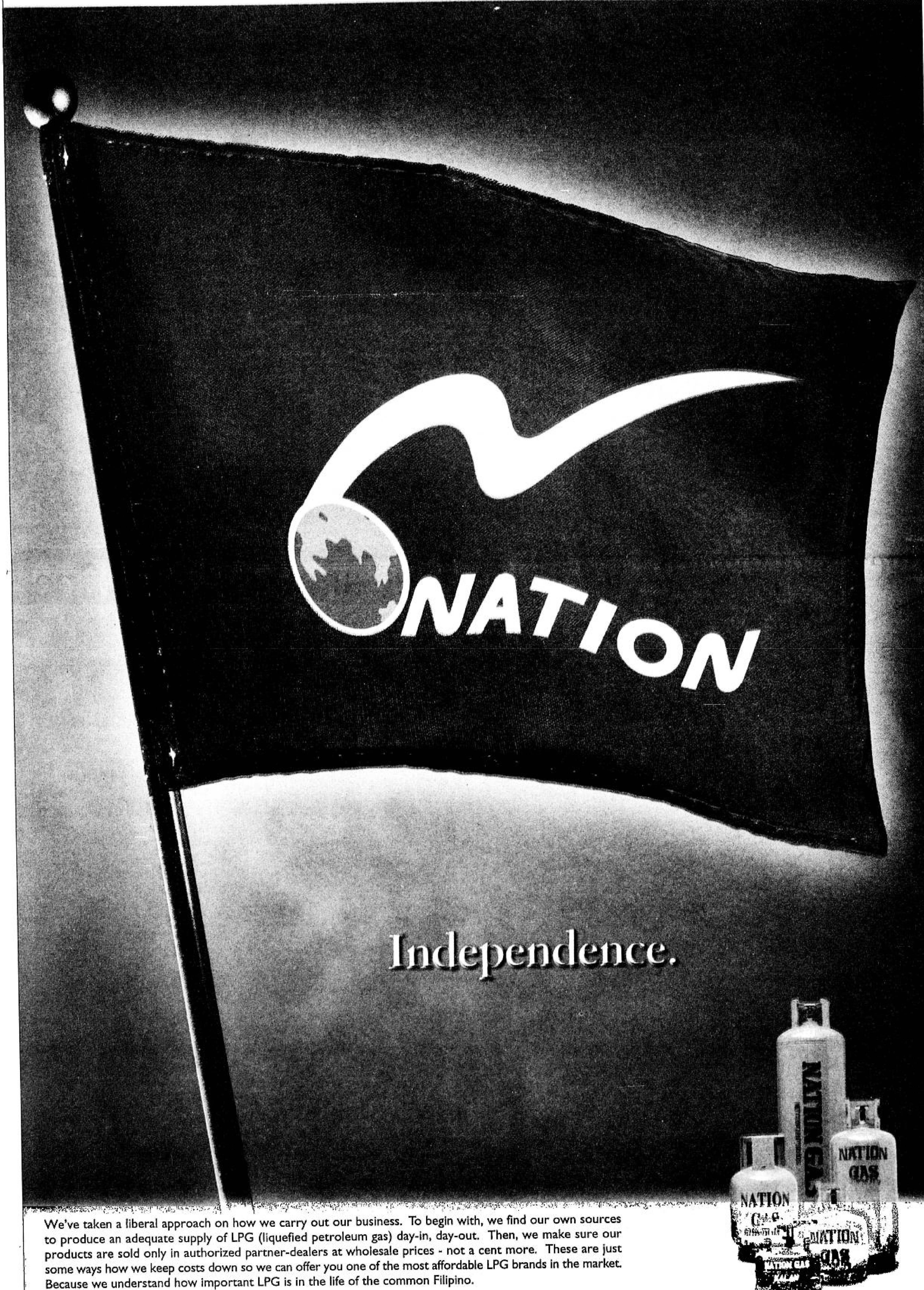
For more information, you may contact Mr. Cary L. Go, Nation Petroleum Strategic Planning Officer, at 889-9888.



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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Associate Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE Toronto 2, Baltimore 1; Minnesota 2, Detroit 0; NY Yankees 7, Tampa Bay 1; Cleveland 6, Boston 4; CHI White Sox 3, Kansas City 1; Oakland 7, Anaheim 4; Seattle 3, Texas 2 (10 innings).

NATIONAL LEAGUE NY Mets 2, Chicago Cubs 1; Philadelphia 6, Atlanta 5; Montreal 4, Florida 2 (11 innings); Pittsburgh 3, Cincinnati 2; Houston 3, Milwaukee 1; Arizona 10, San Diego 3; St. Louis 8, Colorado 5; San Francisco 7, Los Angeles 4.

SUERTRES 2 5 5

SIX DIGIT (In exact order) 0 1 0 7 5 1

SUPERLOTTO 6/49 14 16 18 19 30 36

THE WINNER TAKES IT ALL

Pals-Thunder: No more tomorrow

JERALD Honeycutt (left), shown defending against Thunder's Julius Nwosu, will be a key figure in the Phone Pals' bid for their first ever PBA title tonight. Set to join the fray is Gilbert Demape of Talk N Text.

FILE PHOTO

GAME TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
6:30 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Red Bull

Game 1—Talk N Text d. Red Bull, 102-100
Game 2—Red Bull d. Talk N Text, 96-86
Game 3—Talk N Text d. Red Bull, 80-71
Game 4—Red Bull d. Talk N Text, 89-81
Game 5—Talk N Text d. Red Bull, 77-55
Game 6—Red Bull d. Talk N Text, 86-78

By June Navarro

WITH THE ODDS almost even, Batang Red Bull and Talk N Text go for the clincher tonight in Game 7 of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Thunder leveled the best-of-seven championship series at 3-all with a methodical 86-78 victory over the Phone Pals Wednesday night, setting up a final confrontation between the two title-hungry squads.

The Phone Pals are hoping that the winning trend in the series continues as they have won Games 1, 3 and 5 while the Thunder are praying for back-to-back victories to retain the crown.

"If we can carry this momentum, we have a pretty good chance of retaining the title. It's a tiring and emotional series but I think adrenalin will be pumping until Game 7," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, who is seeking his fourth coaching title in six Finals' appearances.

Guiao will bet all his money on Julius Nwosu, Sean Lampley and the Thunder's gritty backcourt, which, for the first time in the series outplayed their Talk N Text counterparts.

Willie Miller and Jimwell Torion outshone the trio of Gilbert Demape, Kenny Evans and Felix Belano, which proved critical for the Phone Pals aside from the sub-par fourth quarter performances of imports Jerald Honeycutt and Pete Mickeal.

"We had a mental practice after viewing the tapes. We'll just play hard and make little adjustments on the shaded area against Red Bull," said Talk N Text coach Bill Bayno, who is aiming to become the fifth American coach to win a crown in the PBA.

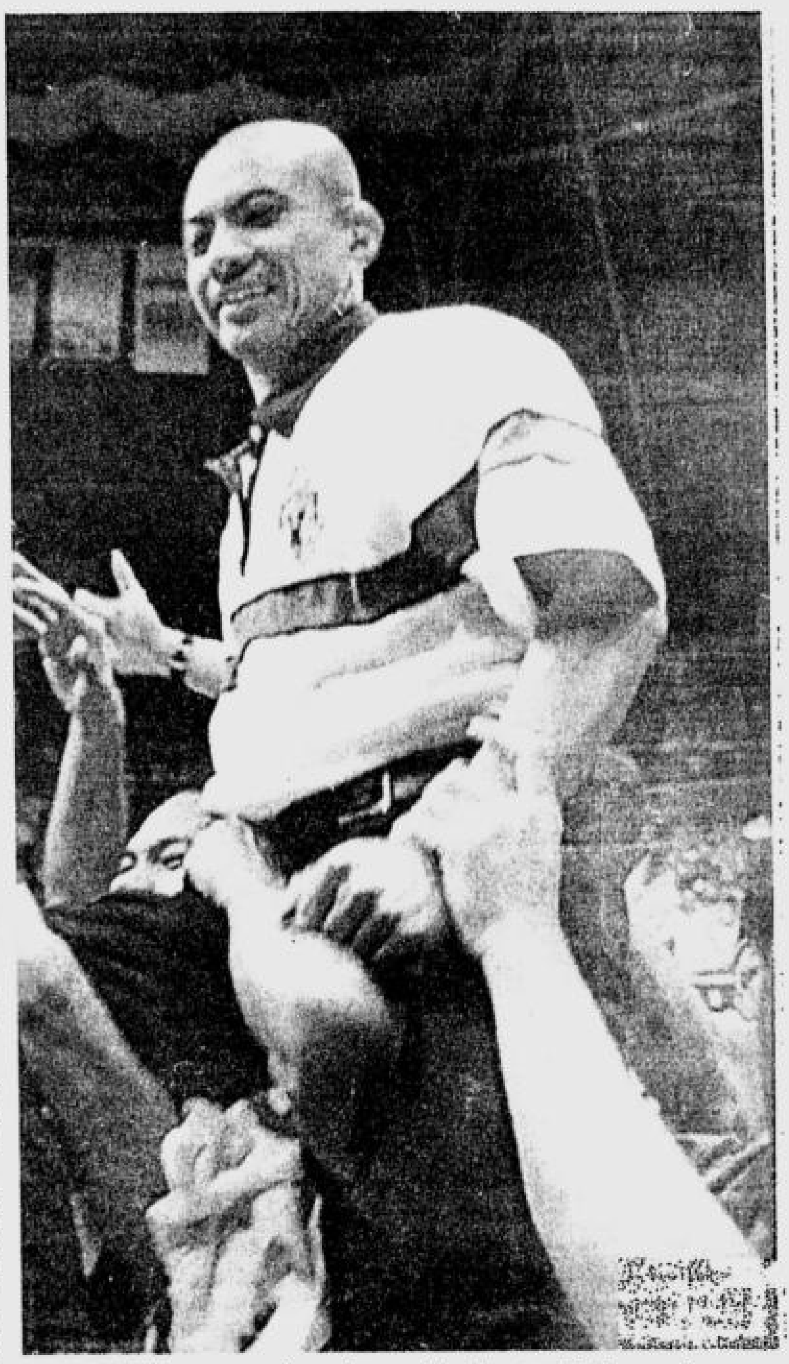
Other than that, Bayno said Game 7 would be a clash of playing styles. He said the one who would handle the pressure best would win the title.

"Pressure can get you not on the physical aspect but on the mental side. I think we are used to that and no matter how hard they play, we can keep up with that," said Guiao.

While the Thunder are seeking to repeat their act last year, the Phone Pals are aspiring to break a stigma attached to them since the 1998 Governors Cup when the Manny Pangilinan-owned ballclub won Game 5–only to lose two straight that allowed Shell to clinch the crown.

It was dejavu for the Phone Pals Wednesday night after the Thunder forced the showdown into a do-or-die affair.

"It's gonna be 40 minutes of hell out there and we're just hoping for the best," said Bayno after being summoned at the PBA Commissioner's Office yesterday for engaging PBA technical head Ricky Palou in a verbal tussle immediately after the game (see separate story on this).



GUIAO: Will he get another victory ride after tonight's game?

FILE PHOTO

Tiger cool toward Olympic golf gold

By Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

WOODS

THOMASTOWN, Ireland—Tiger Woods would rather play for green than gold.

While not ruling out a possible trip to the Olympics should golf be added to the 2008 games in Beijing, Woods said a gold medal wouldn't be the biggest prize in his sport.

"It certainly does excite me," Woods said. "But which one would you rather win? An Olympic gold medal or one of the four major championships?"

Woods already has won three green jackets at Augusta National, along with two PGAs and a British and U.S. Open.

Woods will be 32 when the Olympics go to China, very much in his prime.

His participation could be critical to golf's hopes of getting onto the Olympic program. The International Olympic Committee is said to be interested only if the World Amateur Golf Council—the official golf federation for the Olympics—can ensure the top players.

Bayno slapped another ₱50-T fine

By Roy Luarca

TALK N TEXT coach Bill Bayno was fined another P50,000 yesterday for "being a recidivist" as a result of his outbursts after the Phone Pals lost to the Red Bull Thunder on Wednesday.

The PBA found him guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct for the fourth time, the last time was on Sept. 5.

Bayno, whose fine already totalled P280,000, approached PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios and technical chief Ricky Palou on the commissioner's table and engaged Palou in a word war regarding officiating.

Bayno was slapped a P200,000 fine early in the conference for branding the PBA as the San Miguel Basketball Association.

The Commissioner's Office fined him P20,000 a week later for another round of diatribe against game officials.

Next he was assessed another P10,000 for breaching league rules on ejected coaches.

Bayno had a one-hour talk with Palou yesterday afternoon at the Commissioner's Office to air his side.

"I'm not really allowed to talk about it. It's standard. We just exchanged views," Bayno told the INQUIRER.

Bayno was warned on Sept. 5 after he was fined not to commit the same mistake again.

Yesterday, the PBA told Bayno: "It is unfortunate that you had to resort to such acts again. On Sept. 5, we highlighted as an important note the reminder not to approach game and league officials after a game. We have always cautioned you on your behavior because we don't want you to earn a reputation of being a recidivist who refuses to follow rules and subject himself to persons of authority. This not only hurts your image as a coach and as a sportsman, but this could also have a negative effect on your team and the entire league as well. However, it seems all our reminders have fallen on deaf ears."

He was warned that a repetition of the same "will be dealt with more severely." *With a report from June Navarro*

'58 PMAers play at Villamor GC today; FVR guest

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos will be the guest of honor today during the fellowship golf tournament hosted by Class 1958 of the Philippine Military Academy at Villamor.

Joining him during the ceremonial tee-off at 7 a.m. are DOTC Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza and PNP Chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

Retired Maj. Gen. Ramon Montaño said that participants will be divided into classes A, B and C.

Trophies and valuable merchandise will be up for grabs in the 18-hole golfest.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: Senior PGA Allianz Championship Highlights at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Inside the PGA Tour at 11 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.) on Star Sports
LPGA First Union Betsy King Classic at 1 p.m. on ESPN
LPGA Wendy's Championship for Children at 9:30 p.m. on Star Sports
SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 7 a.m. on Star Sports
Goals! at 12 noon on ESPN
Football Asia at 7:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
English Premier League Preview at 8 p.m. on Star Sports
Spanish League Highlights at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: Max Power 2002 at 4 p.m. on Star Sports
Japanese GT Championship at 6 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

'I can't work again with people who discriminated against me'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHERE is Ed Picson?

I have been asked that a thousand times already.

You and I know that Ed Picson has become almost as popular as Robert Jaworski. For the last 17 years or so, there has not been a single PBA championship game where Ed Picson was not the anchor. The reason you don't see him doing the TV coverage of the ongoing title playoffs between Red Bull and Talk N Text is Ronnie Nathanielsz. Nathanielsz, the man this nation loves to hate each time he appears on TV, fired Ed Picson on Sept. 2 for reasons that are as undecipherable as the spelling of Nathanielsz' Sri Lankan family name, if not Nathanielsz' diction itself. Anyway, below is Ed Picson's letter. It explains it all.

"Dear Al,

Thank you for asking about me. For the past couple of weeks I have been receiving similar inquiries, messages of concern and even agitated text messages from different parts of the country as to why I have not been seen or heard in the television coverage of the PBA games.

"I am told there has been a lot of conjecture about my absence so allow me to set the record straight. I am around; it's just that I haven't been "seen around." Levity aside, it is true that I have been sacked from the TV coverage.

"Attached is a copy of the Urgent Memo issued by Mr. Ronnie Nathanielsz, Chief Operating Officer of Viva Vintage Sports Inc., and the producer of the television coverage of the PBA games.

"It is because of this that I write this letter. Several lawyer-friends have advised me to seek legal redress for this arbitrary action of Mr. Nathanielsz and VVSI, and to be honest, I have considered it seriously. I am told we have very good grounds for filing a suit.

"However, after consulting with people whom I respect in the circles that I work in, I reflected on what I wanted to get out of this unfortunate affair. Do I want to be reinstated? Do I want to sue for damages? My answer to those two questions is an unequivocal No.

"I have covered the PBA games for 17 years. To say that I am going to miss it would be an understatement. Yes, I am saddened by this unceremonious exit, and I am pained by the distress this has caused my family and friends. But I do not think I can work again with people who have discriminated against me and who have run the coverage with such disregard for their workers that they would consistently delay payment of wages for up to three months. And how can they possibly run a good coverage when they have not even called a single panel meeting in more than 2-1/2 years of operation?

"While I could certainly use the cash, I don't want to sue for their money. I only want what I have worked for-(and they still owe me a half-month's wages from Aug. 16 to 31, and one coverage for Sept. 1). It's not much, but it's mine, I worked for it. It was due last Sept. 5 and I have reminded Viva about it, but I have not heard anything from them.

"The reason advanced by Mr. Nathanielsz for my termination was that I did the coverage of the World Basketball Championship for another organization which he says is a violation of an understanding with VVSI. I am perplexed by this since my contract with them never stipulated that I was prohibited from doing other sports coverages, precisely because my engagement was on a Non-exclusive basis! I have always been a freelance talent even during the days of Vintage Sports. Mr. Nathanielsz would normally assign me only one or two times a week despite [illegible] being the Senior Anchorman. And we were on a no-work-no-pay arrangement. Yet he would have me turn down legitimate income from other sources? Is this unfair or what?

"Apparently there's more to this than meets the eye. On Aug. 13, your paper published an article exposing the two-month delay of wages of talents in VVSI. This came on the heels of meetings among the talents, which I admit was instigated by me and other panelists, in our efforts to get paid. It seems that Management had gone on a witch hunt to find out who was behind the article and they zeroed in on me. What they did not know was that most of our colleagues in the print media had already known about our problem, and in fact there had already been write-ups about it in other publications. That the INQUIRER chose to reveal the information when it did was not my fault. That VVSI chose to react to it the way it did, was my misfortune.

"Still, I am not inclined to take legal action against VVSI and/or Mr. Nathanielsz. What I want is to make sure that the issue is clear to a public that may be misled by this turn of events. I have been a professional broadcaster for the past 30 years and have strived to act accordingly. Controversy has never been my cup of tea, but I feel I owe it to my family and to the many friends I have made in the course of my broadcasting the PBA to clear up this matter.

"I bear no grudges against anyone in VVSI. Not against Mr. Nathanielsz, who does his job as he sees fit, and not against Mr. Vic del Rosario, chair of the Viva Group of Companies, whom we never had a chance to interact with anyway, since he very rarely showed himself or talked to most of us. I will admit to disappointment in the manner in which I was cut off from something that has been a part of my life for the past 17 years, but I can survive this.

"To all the well-meaning people, friends and strangers alike, who have given me words of encouragement, advice and support, my sincerest "Madamo nga salamat ha iyo nga tanan, kasangkayan!"

"Thank you Al, for this opportunity." –ED PICSON

RP 5 not safe versus UAE, North Korea

RP Team Sked *(Group C)*
Sept. 28: 5 p.m.–Philippines vs UAE
Sept. 30: 5 p.m..–Philippines vs North Korea

By June Navarro

THE PBA-POWERED Philippine basketball team is expected to face stiff competition against the United Arab Emirates and North Korea in Group C of the Asian Games basketball competitions in Busan, South Korea.

The RP will advance to the next round if it finishes either No. 1 or No. 2 from its bracket, a mission that looks easy—but only at first glance.

But based on the scouting report of RP assistant coach Binky Favis, head coach Jong Uichico said the Emirates team is "big, athletic and has a deep pool of impressive guards" who could match up with the Nationals.

Favis scouted the Emirates team, which has an agressive 6-foot-9 center, in Dubai during the Gulf Cooperation basketball tournament, considered as the premier cage loop in the Middle East.

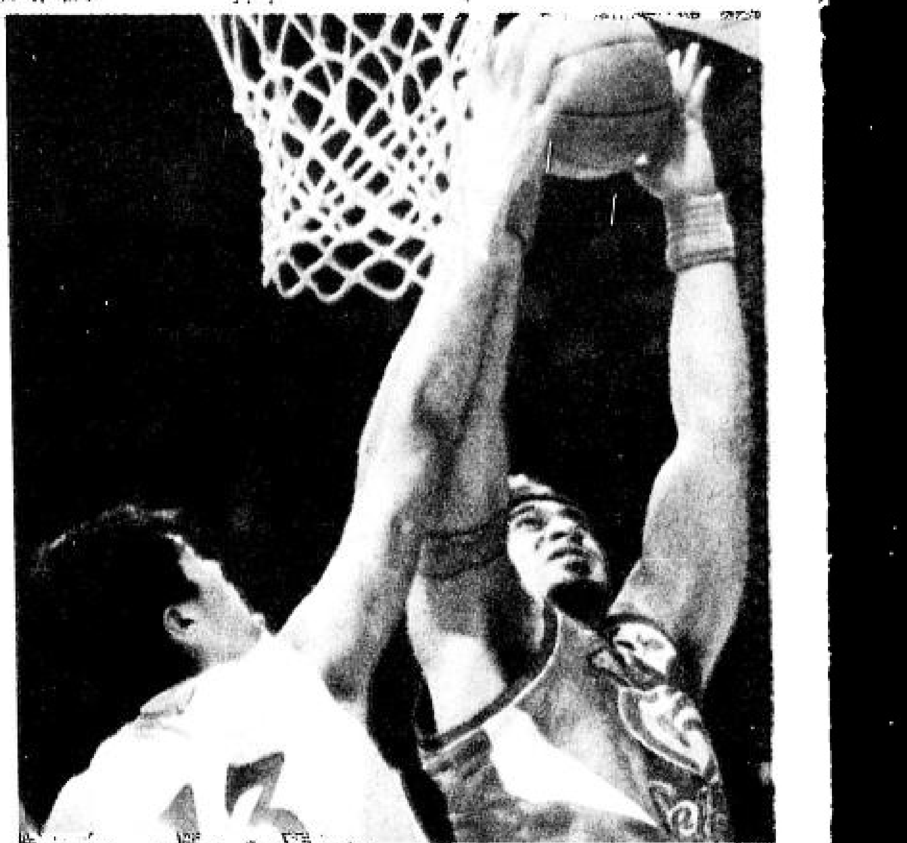
The RP Team will open its gold-medal hunt against the Emirates on Sept. 28 before plunging into a clueless battle against the mysterious North Koreans two days later.

"We'll find ways to scout them (North Koreans). It's going to be a tough job but we'll have to exhaust all means to get an idea of how they (Nokor) play," said Uichico, who, along with the entire coaching staff, haven't witnessed the Nokors play in more than a decade.

According to reports, the Nokors boast of veteran shooting star Pak Chon Jong and center Ri Myong Hun, the world's tallest cager at 7-foot-9.

Should national coach Jong Uichico and his wards survive UAE and the Nokors in Group C, the Nationals will move into the quarterfinals and meet the No. 2 qualifier from Group D.

However, if the Philippines splits its elimination assignments, the Nationals will face Group D's top qualifier in the next round.



ASI Taulava (right) will have his hands full against North Korea's 7-foot-9 Ri Myong Hun in the Asian Games. FILE PHOTO

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January 26, 2003

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2nd Prize	One (1)	ST-43T6P Projection TV
3rd Prize	One (1)	AP-2480B/BC Package Aircon
4th Prize	One (1)	SR-S20NTC Side-by-Side Refrigerator
5th Prize	One (1)	CT-29M6P Flat TV
6th Prize	One (1)	CT-29K3W Flat TV
7th Prize	One (1)	AS-09A8MB Split-Type Aircon
8th Prize	One (1)	T100 Color TFT LCD Cellphone
9th Prize	One (1)	DVD-8500 DVD Combo Player
10th Prize	One (1)	MAX-VL85 VCD Mini Component
11th Prize	One (1)	WA-90K2S Washing Machine

Monthly Draw
First monthly draw October 27, 2002
Second monthly draw November 24, 2002
Third monthly draw December 22, 2002

1st Prize	One (1)	Isuzu Fuego
2nd Prize	One (1)	ST-43T6P Projection TV
3rd Prize	One (1)	AP-2480B/BC Package Aircon
4th Prize	One (1)	SR-S20NTC Side-by-Side Refrigerator
5th Prize	One (1)	CT-29M6P Flat TV
6th Prize	One (1)	CT-29K3W Flat TV
7th Prize	One (1)	AS-09A8MB Split-Type Aircon
8th Prize	One (1)	T100 Color TFT LCD Cellphone
9th Prize	One (1)	DVD-8500 DVD Combo Player
10th Prize	One (1)	MAX-VL85 VCD Mini Component
11th Prize	One (1)	WA-90K2S Washing Machine

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- The following Samsung products are included in the promo: Plasma Display Panel, Projection TVs, Flat TVs, conventional TVs, Home Theater Systems, DVD Players, VCD Mini Components, VCD Players, Refrigerators, Air Conditioners, Washing Machines, Microwave Ovens, Cellular Phones, and SyncMaster computer monitors.

- There will be three monthly draws. All draws will be held within the afternoon program, SOP, at the GMA 7 studios in Quezon City at 1 pm in the presence of a DTI representative.

- Deadlines for dropping of entries will be on the ff. dates:

  - *October 27, 2002 draw (October 15, 2002)*
  - *November 24, 2002 draw (November 15, 2002)*
  - *December 22, 2002 draw (December 15, 2002)*
  - *January 26, 2003 draw (January 15, 2003)*

- Mailed entries received at the Samsung Head Office on or before the deadlines for dropping of entries will qualify for the raffle draw for that particular raffle period.

- A participant can win only once per draw. If the name of a winner will be drawn more than once, he/she will receive the prize with the higher value. However, a winner in an earlier draw can still win in the succeeding draws provided he/she submits other entries. Non-winning entries during any of the monthly draws will not be eligible to join the succeeding monthly draws but will automatically be included in the grand draw.

- Winners will be notified via telephone call and registered mail. Winners may claim their prize at the Samsung Head Office, G/F Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, by presenting any valid ID with photo (passport, driver's license, SSS/GSIS, company ID, etc.) and the official receipt or sales invoice within 60 days from notification date. For provincial winners, they can claim their prize at the nearest authorized Samsung dealer specified in the registered mail.

- Prizes are not convertible to cash. Vehicle registration shall be for the account of the winner.

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Bustamante trips Reyes, posts sweep

By Dennis U. Eroa

SUBIC—Filipino ace Francisco "Django" Bustamante mastered compatriot Efren "Bata" Reyes, 5-4, 5-1, to sweep the eliminations last night of the Cafe Puro Challenge of the Masters at the Subic Yacht Club here.

Bustamante used his awesome break prowess in order to beat Reyes and post his third straight win in this tournament which has attracted large crowd in this exclusive club offering a wonderful view of the Subic Bay.

With the win, Bustamante, who placed second to American Earl Strickland in the recent World Pool championship in Cardiff, Wales, will meet Finland's Mika Immonen in today's crossover semis.

Earlier, former US Open titleholder Corey Deuel barged into the winning column after two consecutive losses by downing former World Pool titleholder Immonen, 5-1 5-4.

Deuel tackles Reyes in the other half of the semis. Both winners will also advance in today's finals with the winner receiving $10,000 and the loser pocketing $7,500.

Like Reyes, Bustamante expressed satisfaction on the crowd support. "I would like to thank SBMA chair Felicito Payumo and the people of SBMA for their support. This tournament is going to be very memorable due to the hospitality being displayed by the hosts," he said.

Lachica snares Forest Hills title

KEVIN Lachica braved the afternoon rains and carded a net 41 points via the modified Stableford scoring system to win the Class A division championship recently of the 2002 Chairman's Cup at the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club in Antipolo City.

Lachica, whose score is equivalent to a net 5-under par 66 on regular play, beat Alvin Buenaventura who finished with 39 markers.

In Class B, Sevi Liao relied heavily on his sizzling 12 pars to fashion out a close win against Alex Chua.Other winners are Romy Dy (Class C), Corky Opelanio (Class D), Lourdes Chua (Ladies) and Tony Asistio (Guests/Sponsors).

Cagayan entry tops Shell meet

DASMARIÑAS, Cavite—Cagayan de Oro's Rustom R. Tolentino and Pasig City's Lord Anthony P. Calvo steamrolled their foes in seven games recently to rule their respective divisions in the 6th leg of the 2002 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship.

Junior bracket champion Tolentino nailed his seventh point at the expense of local defending champion De Leon Marohom, Jr., winning in 31 moves of a Sicilian Grand Prix.

Tolentino earned a grand finals seat, P5,000 and the division gold medal. Marohom dropped to second worth P4,000 and the silver.

Torre chess workshop

ELEMENTARY and high schools from the Calabarzon and other south Luzon provinces are the beneficiaries when the first chess-in-schools workshop to be conducted by Grandmaster Eugene Torre gets underway at 9 a.m. tomorrow at the First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (Faith) in Tanauan City, Batangas. For details contact the Getci at tel. 892-8759 or e-mail: acca@info. com.ph.

Torre will be assisted by noted chess scholar Elmer Sangalang and national master Robert Suelo of the Active Chess Center of Asia (ACCA).

Free of AIDS symptoms, Magic prepares for induction to Hall

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts—Magic Johnson's latest checkup confirmed he is free of AIDS symptoms, 11 years after he first tested positive for HIV.

The former NBA star, who will be inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame next week, said his doctor told him last week he is still healthy.

"He said, 'Man, whatever you're doing, just keep it up, cause you look great,'" Johnson said Wednesday in a conference call to discuss his induction. "I passed all the tests again."

Johnson will be inducted into the Hall on Sept. 27 along with coaches Larry Brown and Lute Olsen, the late Drazen Petrovic, North Carolina State University women's coach Kay Yow and the Harlem Globetrotters. The ceremony precedes a grand opening of the Hall's new building the following day.

Johnson, who won five NBA titles with the Los Angeles Lakers in the 1980s, first retired at age 32 after testing positive for HIV while being examined for an insurance policy.

Johnson has kept the disease at bay by working out regularly and taking his medication.

"I don't feel ill. I never have," he said. "I still work out every day. Everything has been super since Day 1."

Firm loses $2.7M

INDIANAPOLIS—The World Basketball Championships were costly off the court, too.

Two weeks after the United States' embarrassing sixth-place finish, the nonprofit corporation that organizes the city's major amateur sports events reported an expected loss of $2.69 million.

Search for Dele

PAPEETE, Tahiti—Police have fanned out on this South Pacific island trying to follow the more than two-month-old trail of Bison Dele, a former NBA player who vanished in July, while experts scoured anew his abandoned boat for clues. *AP*

GMA meets athletes today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THEY'VE got additional funds, blessings from the archbishop and now President Macapagal-Arroyo is personally sending them off in a ceremony today at the Heroes Hall of the Malacañang Palace.

The President is expected to exhort the 218 athletes who will carry the country's colors in the affair which begins at 11 a.m.

The national athletes, hoping to surpass the lone gold medal it won in Bangkok four years ago, are getting all the support they could get to succeed in the Busan Asian Games which starts Sept. 29.

MACAPAGAL

"We appreciate the President's gesture of sending off the team because her blessing is one precious boost our athletes need when they do battle in the Asian Games," said Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain.

The send off came a few days after President Macapagal approved the P50-million additional fund for the RP Asiad campaign.

Also earlier in the week, Cardinal Sin pledged to pray for their success, while First Gentleman Mike Arroyo announced that he will be on hand to cheer the Team Philippines in Busan.

Buhain will accompany the athletes to Malacañang along with commissioners Mike Barredo, Cynthia Carrion, Leon Montemayor and William Ramirez. Philippine Olympic Committee officials will also be there.

"The supports are coming from all corners," said Buhain, who assured that the athletes don't feel pressured by the expectations of them.

The PSC maintained that the athletes can bring home a minimum of four gold medals and a maximum of seven based on their performance during tune-up events done here and abroad.

The bulk of the RP contingent will fly to Busan on Thursday to compete in 31 disciplines.

The athletes will converge one more time on Sunday just in time when the nationwide torch relay project, dubbed as the National Rallies Behind Team Philippines," culminate at the Quirino Grandstand.

Air Force booters lead

BACOLOD CITY—NCR Philippine Air Force team standouts Edzel Bracamonte and Ziggy Tonog are running 1-2 in the race for the Best Striker award in the ongoing national men's football championship here.

Bracamonte has scored 11 goals in three games so far, while Tonog has chalked up seven markers. Four others who are in the list are Negros Oriental's Wouter Delbaere with five goals, Negros Occidental's Reydrick Villiran, four; and NCR-PAF's Wilfredo Bermejo and Negros Occidental's Elvin Marcellana with three each.

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Jolet tops road race; Retuya shares honors

ROSARIO, Batangas—Shell Advance-Rolex Engineering's Jolet Jao and Shell Racing's Joel Retuya posted stirring victories to assure themselves of their respective crowns last weekend in the Casino Filipino Grand Prix at the Batangas Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Though heavy rains postponed the afternoon race, Jao's victory in Round 9 was enough to virtually annex his sixth road race crown in seven years in the Shell Advance Super Bike Series sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sport and Safety Association (Namssa) and sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association (BRCA) Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phil., Casino Filipino, MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro and Kilton Motors Corporation.

"*Siyempre, masaya ako*. This is one of the best seasons so far. And this could not have been possible without the support of the Shell management as well as Rolex Engineering, Ryan Thomas and my Japanese technical adviser," said Jao.

He finished the 12-lap race in 1:42.965, 4.265 seconds ahead of runner-up Toti Alberto of Access Plus-Ducati Manila and third placer Rod Scott of RS Racing.

Retuya shared honors with Shell teammate Victor Yap in the weekend's Formula Toyota Cup races.

'Sagupaan' gets going

THE MUCH-AWAITED 2nd Annual Sagupaan Complexor 3000 5-Stag Derby, the biggest stag-fighting event in Central Luzon, finally sizzles at 4 p.m. today at the Pampanga Coliseum (San Fernando City).

Expected to witness this event are gamefowl afficionados from Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Pangasinan, Ilocos and Zambales. Derby host is *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio.

At stake is a guaranteed prize of P500,000. Every champion will get one imported brood cock courtesy of Sagupaan Game farm. Entry fee is P22,000 and minimum bet is P11,000.

The Fastest Win awardee will also receive P20,000, according to Antonio. Last year's winner of this special award was Jimmy Mariquit, whose entry recorded a very fast clocking of seven seconds.

Last year's champion was the unheralded bet of Bobby Cabillon (RSC Farm).

Pasay derby on tonight

MORE than 60 fights are scheduled when the special 4-stag derby fires off at 7 p.m. at the Pasay City Cockpit The derby's sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Sagupaan Mite Free. At stake is a whopping cash prize of P300,000.

Meanwhile, the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) Inaugural 4-Stag Derby will be held on Sept. 27. This will be followed by another 4-stag tilt on Oct. 4 with Benjie Lim as host.

For other details, inquiries may be coursed through 843-1746, 843-1890 and 816-6750.

SPORTSWATCH

La Salle seminar slated

THE GRADUATE School of Business of the De La Salle University Professional Schools, Inc. is conducting a Research Colloquium on Sports Development on Sept. 23, 2002. To be held at the GSB RCBC campus in Makati City from 2 to 5 in the afternoon, the colloquium is part of the GSB's efforts at assisting the government in preparing a Master/Sector Plan for Sports for the Philippines. Speakers will be Prof. Philip Ella Juico, Dean of the GSB and former Chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission, and Rick Burton, a noted international expert on Sports Marketing and Management. For inquiries, please call Prof. Tristan Macapanpan at 727-3759 or e-mail at GSBColloquia@dlsu.edu.ph.

Cybergames meet

THE SAMSUNG Philippine Cybergames Challenge will be held tomorrow at the Philsports Arena where 258 national finalists will slug it out to make the 9-player squad which will represent the country in the 2nd World Cyber games Challenge in Daejon, South Korea on Oct. 29 to Nov. 2.

No live Asiad coverage

SINGAPORE—Singapore's two television broadcasters have ruled out live coverage from this year's Asian Games in South Korea saying the hefty broadcasting fee is far too high. *AFP*

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Race 2–1. Time and Again 2. Taproot
Race 3–1. Maayo Kaayo 2. I Love You 3. Rapid Strike 4. Silent Wind
Race 4–1. Joaqi 2. Owner's Dream 3. Yallah's Princess 4. Noble Principality 5. Live Show
Race 5–1. Doña Gelay 2. Forever Joyce 3. Picture Perfect
Race 6–1. Strong Element 2. Best Gift 3. My Lady Ann 4. Expediter 5. Black Ijhay
Race 7–1. Dedicated 2. Rock's Dragon 3. Shen Zhen Girl 4. Judicial System 5. Sky Wind
Race 8–1. Voice of Destiny 2. Bari Bari 3. Tawagin Mo Na 4. Rising Fast 5. Classy Babe
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BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Gerry Peñalosa beat Korean In Man Chang via a 10-round decision (3-0) to post his 23rd win in 25 fights at the San Andres Coliseum in Malate. Also today in 1996, Lizette Garcia bagged the bronze medal in the Masters event of the Asian Week bowling tournament in Pusan, South Korea.

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- Red Bull, TNT dispute PBA title A/21
- RP 5 clueless about N. Korea A/22

Archers advance; Eagles force KO

By Dennis U. Eroa

TITLEHOLDER De La Salle pulverized University of Santo Tomas, 97-84, securing the first finals slot yesterday in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Archers greeted the Tigers with a 30-9 blast, an attack which they were able to sustain till the final buzzer.

"We jumped the gun and intimidated them. We wanted the Tigers to quit early," said La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren as the Archers registered their ninth straight finals' appearance.

La Salle used a dizzying defense, trapping UST ballhandlers and switching excellently which forced the Tigers to shoot blanks from the perimeter and make futile drives throughout the one-sided encounter.

Aside from the prospect of posting the rare five-peat, Pumaren admitted that his charges were pumped up by their 76-63 loss to rival Ateneo last Saturday which robbed them of a 14-game sweep.

"I felt comfortable coming to this game. I can see in the eyes of my players that they want to make a powerful expression after losing to Ateneo," said Pumaren.

Pumaren was right and UST, needing to win twice in the Final Four, was the willing victim.

Cyrus Baguio, Niño Gelig, Christian Luanzon and Alwyn Espiritu played with heavy legs every step of the way, leaving the normally animated coach Aric del Rosario sitting on the bench as he watched sadly the end of UST's season.

Playmaker Mike Cortez kept La Salle's offense running smoothly but it was the tireless Mark Cardona, BJ Manalo and the inside plays of Carlo Sharma which reduced the Tigers' growl into whimpers.

By the end of the third period, the Archers were way ahead, 75-72.

In the other game, Ateneo continued its remarkable comeback by beating University of the East, 84-78, forcing a knockout match on Sunday for the second finals slot.

LA Tenorio played superbly after getting sidelined with a right hand injury, escaping with 17 points and five assists while Rich Alvarez, Sonny Tadeo, Wesley Gonzales and Jec Chia also shone to make up for the anemic shows of leading MVP contender Enrico Villanueva.

Scores:

First game:

LA SALLE 97–Cardona 28, Manalo 18, Sta. Maria 12, Cortez 8, Ramos 8, Yeo 8, Wilson 6, Sharma 4, Tang 3, S. Cabatu 2, Gavino 0, C. Cabatu 0.

UST 84–Baguio 18, Hubalde 15, Gelig 12, Luanzon 10, Espiritu 8, De Guzman 5, Villamin 4, Manching 4, Vizcarra 4, Raterta 4, Del Rosario 0, Manansala 0.

Quarters: 30-14, 52-33, 72-52, 97-84.

Second game:

ADMU 84–Tenorio 17, Alvarez 17, Chia 12, Gonzales 11, Villanueva 10, Fonacier 9, Tadeo 6, Cruz 2.

UE 78–Ariadi 17, Estrada 14, Tubid 12, Omiping 10, Booker 8, Hubalde 4, Masbang 4, Yap 4, Canalela 3, Alminario 2.

Quarters: 15-18, 36-37, 61-52, 84-78.

LA Salle's Mike Cortez (right) slips past UST's Christian Luanzon during their UAAP game yesterday. The Archers won, 97-84, to enter the finals. VAL HANDUMON

SSC eyes 'NC' diadem today

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Coliseum)*
2 p.m.–Letran vs San Beda (jrs)
4 p.m.–SSC vs CSB (srs)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN Sebastian College has two things in mind when it faces College of St. Benilde today in Game 2 of their NCAA men's basketball championship at the Rizal Coliseum.

One is to wrap up the best-of-three title series for the Stags' 11th title overall. And the other is to avenge the humiliation they suffered from the Blazers two years ago.

But whether they can pull it of depends on how the Stags can control the Blazers' impressive firepower which has been made more dangerous by their run-and-gun style of play.

"The breaks decided the game," said St. Benilde coach Dong Vergeire of Game 1. "But we fought very hard the entire game. Game 2 will be much different and we have adjustments in the next game."

He was talking about how the Blazers swamped the Stags in the first half, leading by as many as 11 point before engaging the defending champions in a shoot-out in the latter part of the game.

However, the Blazers failed to anticipate the Stags' championship flair exemplified by Christian Coronel who hit two free throws in the final two seconds to seal the victory last Wednesday.

John-O, Blu win

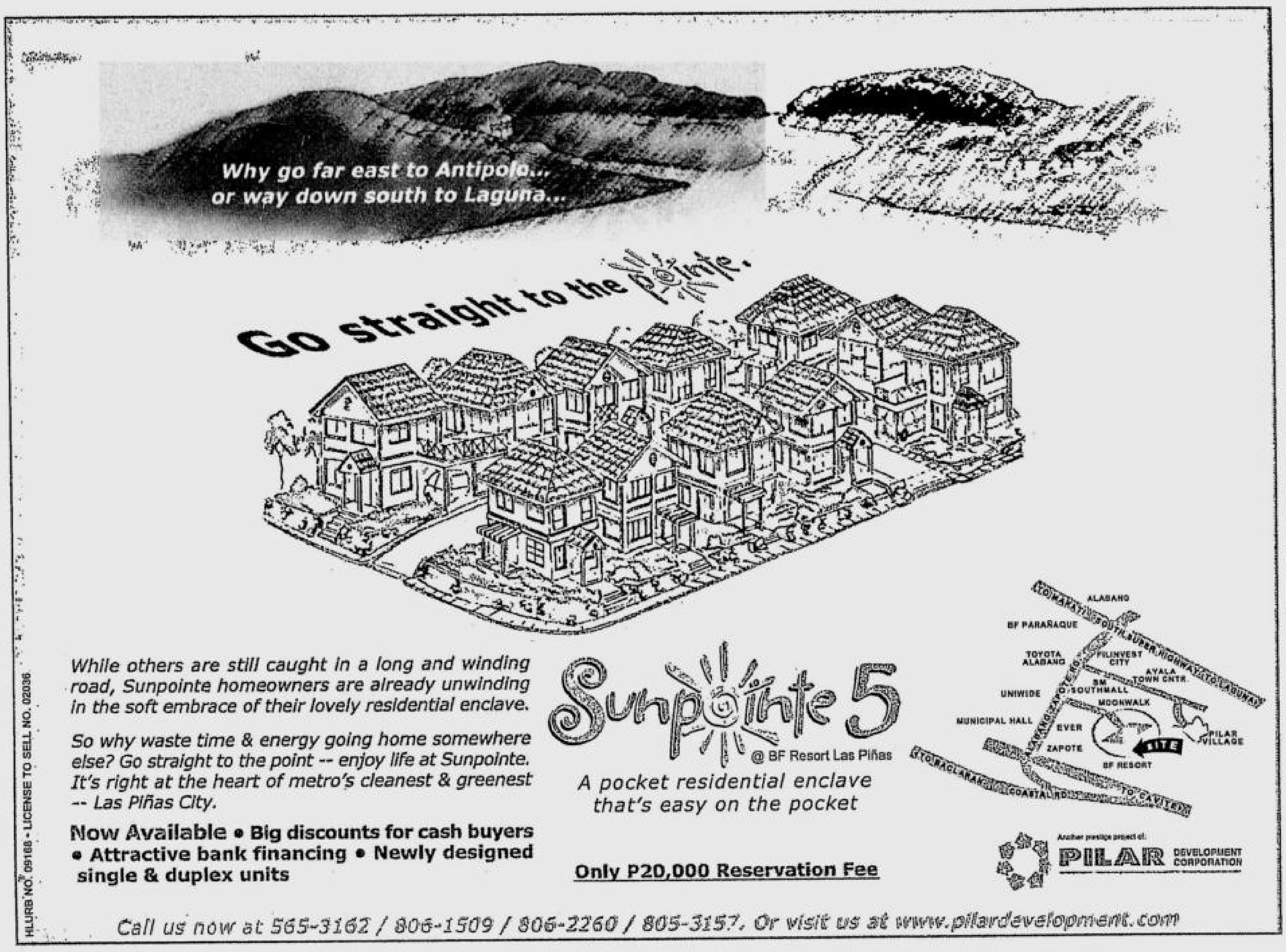
GAMES TODAY *(Pasig Sports Center)*
3 p.m.–Casino Rubbing Alcohol vs GMC-Tortillos
5 p.m.–Blu All Purpose vs Montaña

JOHN-O and Blu All-Purpose reached the crossover semifinals after posting lopsided wins over separate rivals yesterday in the PBL-CBF Dual Meet at the Pasig Sports Center.

Celino Cruz sank 14 of his 16 points in the final half, including four triples while Ranidel de Ocampo, Clarence Cole and Leo Bat-Og added 12 points a piece as John-O broke away in the second half to thwart Skygo Riders 87-67.

The Detergent Kings, on the other hand, blasted GMC-Torillos, 88-62.

In the nightcap, Hapee Toothpaste emerged as the first CBF team to get into the crossover semi-finals via an 84-75 victory over Regent Cheese Ball-Shark.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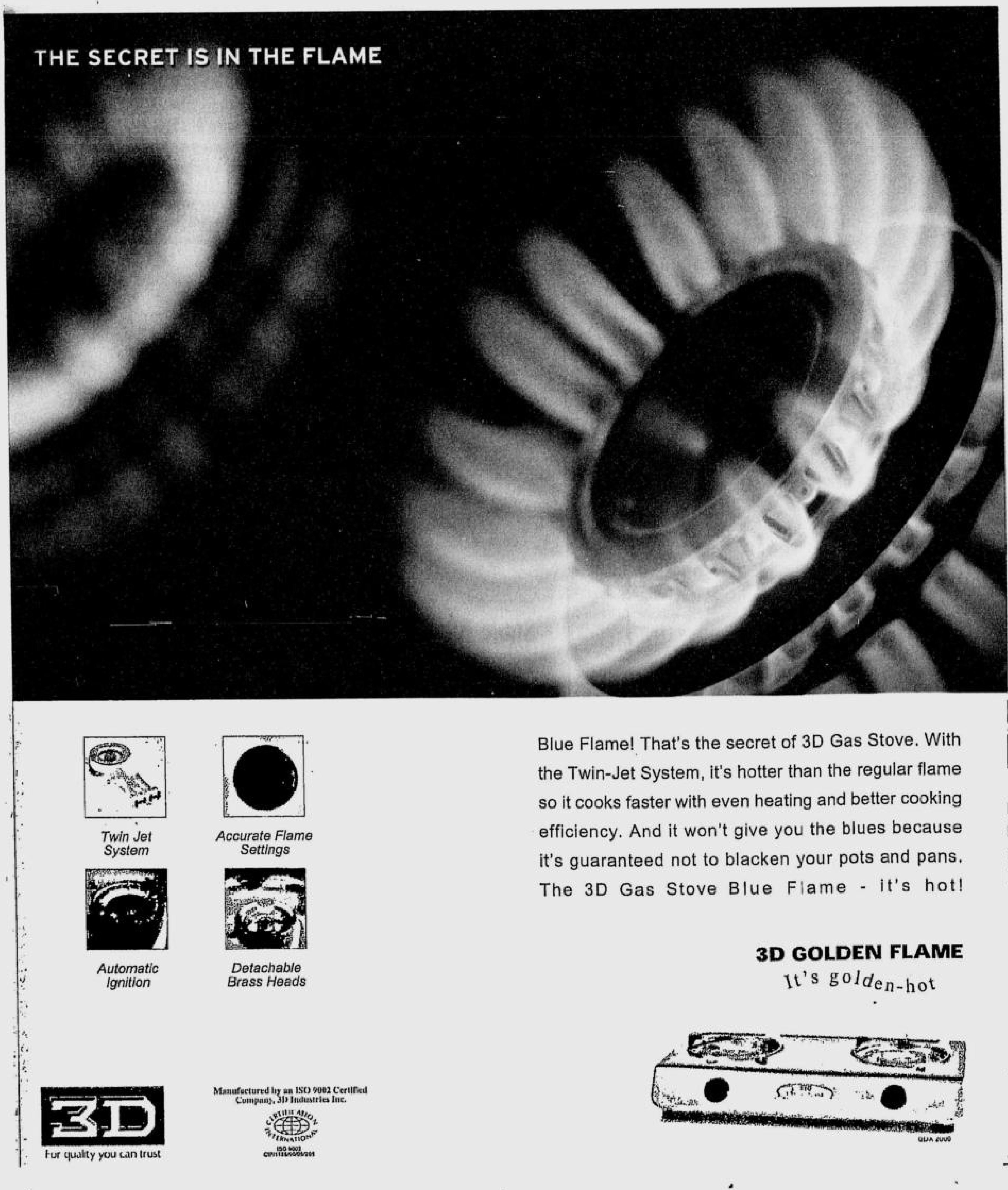
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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

OMA official killed in QC shooting /A26

VELASCO: Back to school. ERIK ARAZAS

MMDA vows fair treatment for all residents /A26

AIM designs course for police retraining /A26

Big 3 oil firms to put up green zone in Pandacan /A26

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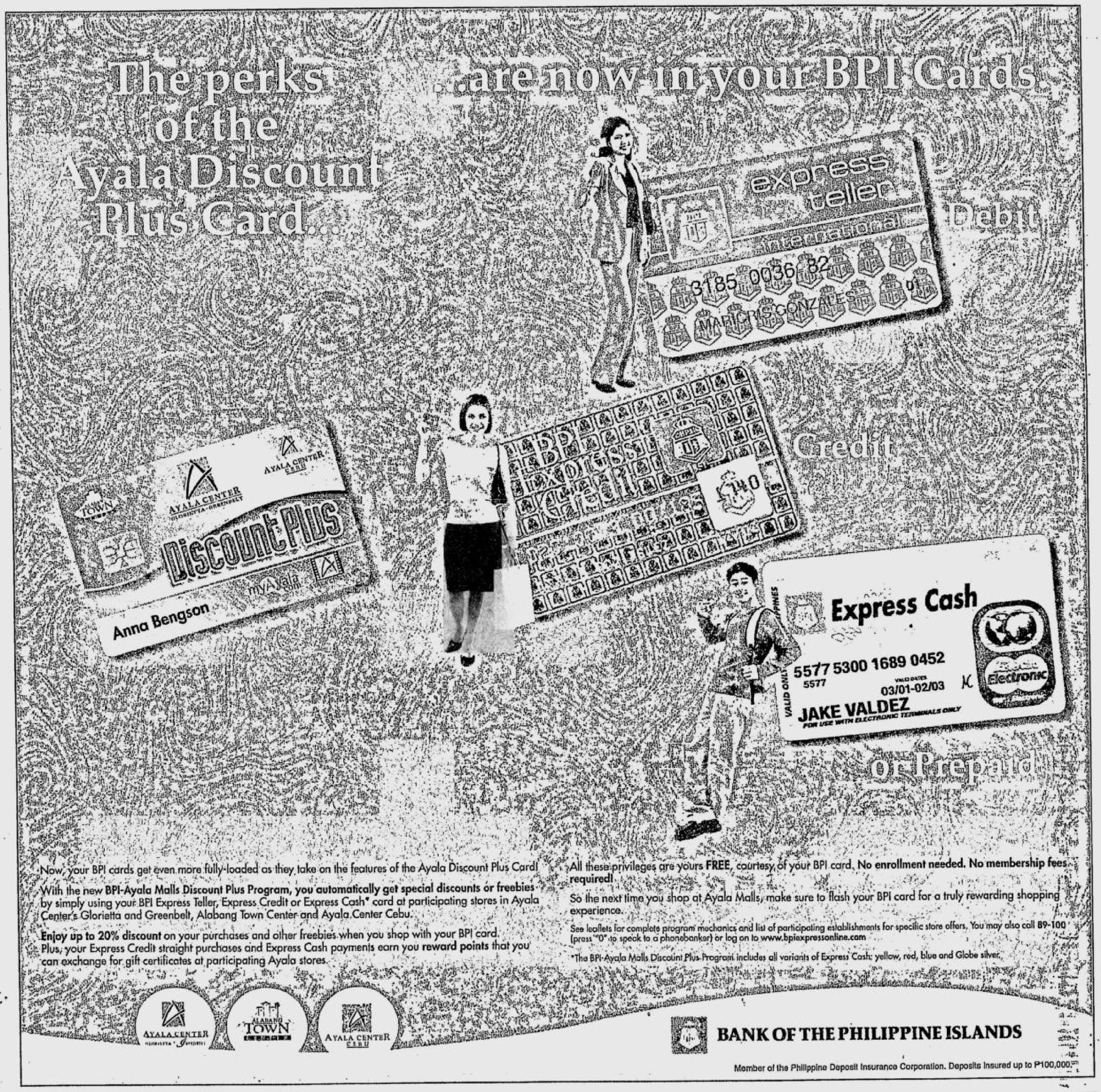

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Bye-bye, rare bird

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LIFE was a feast and he was waiting, raring to get a second serving, a new plate.

Rey Fetalvero, 39, was all set to live a second full life in the United States.

He had secured a visa and booked a Northwest flight to LA in October.

He was also wondering if he could use his driver's license out in California.

Of course. But you could be in trouble, he was told, if you miss a sign in the freeway.

Why? Rey asked wide-eyed.

Nothing much, you could only end up back in tired, old Cubao again

No kidding.

Rey did not have to leave on a jet plane.

He did not get the chance to take the awesome challenge of the California freeway.

Last week, without even saying goodbye, Rey took an unscheduled vacation to nowhere.

***

No regrets, grimly explained Rey's younger brother, the guy lived life to the fullest.

He enjoyed, savored many great moments.

Neighbors, sipping beer and brandy, nodded.

They knew him. Rey, sleeping in his neat, silvery coffin, knew how to live well.

He was handsome, athletic, a regular member of the company basketball team.

In another time and place, he could have been a matador, stubble, fiery eyes, nimble legs, proud, regal bearing.

But, surely enough, he, too, got infected like other restless birds.

He got sick and tired of the old sights and sounds.

He could not see hope around him here.

He was, just like many others before him, dying to fly away and leave the redundant home nest.

> He celebrated life well. He spoke straight and made no pretenses. He was a big help, never ever a nuisance to others. He chirped happy tunes, singing life is a feast, for the world to hear.

***

Be wary of boredom, he was warned before he could book a flight.

Loneliness would be your biggest opponent.

Find a way to use your time, because you would be left alone most of day.

Sure. He said he would find time to jog, smell the sweet, crisp California morning air.

He would swim in the golden daytime wonders in the USA.

He would enjoy the evenings with a beloved sister, sweetly settled in LA, and schedule even greater weekends, Budweiser and pork barbecue, with cousins and other friends.

Oh, damn, forget about the galloping blood pressure, the aching nape.

He did not have to make any promise.

He was certain he would fall instantly in love with America.

Just like all the other poor native birds that had flown ahead of him.

***

So he hurriedly wrapped up things in the office.

He picked up his final pay, together with a hefty service pension.

He said he planned to buy a camera and embrace a second career as a photographer.

It was a boyhood dream, he kept telling friends.

He was a vital cog, a keen-eyed, dedicated page maker and designer.

He was a neat, fast worker, very inventive.

He sure would have been, with his gift, a great photojournalist.

Too bad he failed to try and conquer the California freeway.

But he sure had made good use of his time here.

He celebrated life well.

He spoke straight and made no pretenses.

He was a big help, never ever a nuisance to others.

He chirped happy tunes, singing life is a feast, for the world to hear.

OK, he did not get his second serving. But who cares?

He was one of a kind.

Bye-bye rare bird.

OMA official killed in QC shooting

By Alcuin Papa

A RANKING official of the Office of Muslim Affairs was shot dead yesterday afternoon in Quezon City.

Kharis Micunung, 52, a deputy executive secretary of the OMA and resident of Kamuning, Quezon City was killed in front of the OMA offices at the Ablaza Building on E. Rodriguez Avenue at about 12:30 p.m., according to Chief Insp. Rodolfo Jaraza of the Central Police District.

Micunung was with a relative and about to board his gray Toyota Corolla (USV-540) parked in front of the OMA, when the suspect approached the victim from behind and fired a .38-caliber pistol in his back, Jaraza said.

Micunung was said to be on his way home to have lunch.

As the the suspect casually walked away towards Araneta Avenue, bystanders took Micunung to the St. Luke's Medical Center, witnesses said.

Micunung was already dead before he reached the hospital, Jaraza said.

Witnesses also told police that there was another suspect who served as the lookout. The second suspect joined the gunman on Araneta Avenue.

Jaraza said police have yet to establish the motive and identity of the gunman. Sources at the CPD described the murder as a professional hit.

Witnesses said the gunman was tall, about 40 years old, and had curly hair. He was also wearing black pants and a grey checkered polo shirt.

Jaraza said policemen are still interviewing other witnesses, including the companion of Micunung at the time of the shooting.

The body of the victim was immediately taken to the Muslim Center in Quiapo for the preparation of his burial according to the Muslim custom.

MICUNUNG

MMDA: If villages refuse, we'll use force

By Christian V. Esguerra and Philip C. Tubeza

EVEN Ayala Alabang, the village of the rich, won't be spared.

In an effort to temper complaints that its campaign favors only the rich, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) said yesterday that even the posh village in Muntinlupa City would be opened to traffic "if the need arises."

"Both the rich and the poor are treated equally in our campaign to organize traffic in Metro Manila," MMDA traffic operations center chief Angelito Vergel de Dios told the Inquirer. "At this point, the public can very well gauge the political will of the MMDA."

Vergel de Dios said that before villages are opened, the MMDA would first talk to residents and explain the program.

"We will try to persuade them," he said. "But if they refuse and cite unreasonable grounds, the MMDA will exercise its police power. We will forcibly open their gates."

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, who has enraged illegal vendors and the urban poor for his unbending clean-up drive, has drawn more flak, this time from the rich and the middle-class, after he announced that subdivisions would have to be opened to help decongest traffic in the metropolis.

Subdivision residents fear that the plan would expose them to criminal elements and pollution.

But Vergel de Dios said certain villages would be opened only during rush hours, say from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. He said only villages in areas where traffic is perennially heavy would be opened.

The MMDA is initially eyeing at least five subdivisions in Batasan, Quezon City, according to the traffic operations chief.

The Mapayapa subdivision in the same city might also be opened to ease traffic in Novaliches going to Regalado Street in North Fairview, he said.

Also yesterday, militant vendors said their street stalls must not be demolished since they are an integral part of the country's economy.

``We, the informal sector, which (comprises) 30 percent of the Gross National Product, should be taken care of and be protected by our national government," said Ron Hubbard, convenor of the Alyansa ng mga Manininda para sa Pagtatanggol sa Kabuhayan at Karapatan (Almakka). "We don't deserve to be demolished."

Teh militants vowed to stage a protest outside the main office of the MMDA and to set up camp there the whole day on Oct. 10.

Fernando had given the vendors up to Oct. 10 to get out of sidewalks or else face the MMDA's demolition teams.

``The ranks of the (economy's) informal sector will provide (Fernando) with the battle he wants through a parliament of the streets," Hubbard said.

AIM designs course for police retraining

By Alcuin Papa

IT'S BACK to school for Metro Manila chiefs of police and station commanders.

The National Capital Region Police Office yesterday announced that these police officials would be made to attend a short a management course in the form of a series of seminars to improve their skills in managing their units and fighting crime, particularly kidnapping.

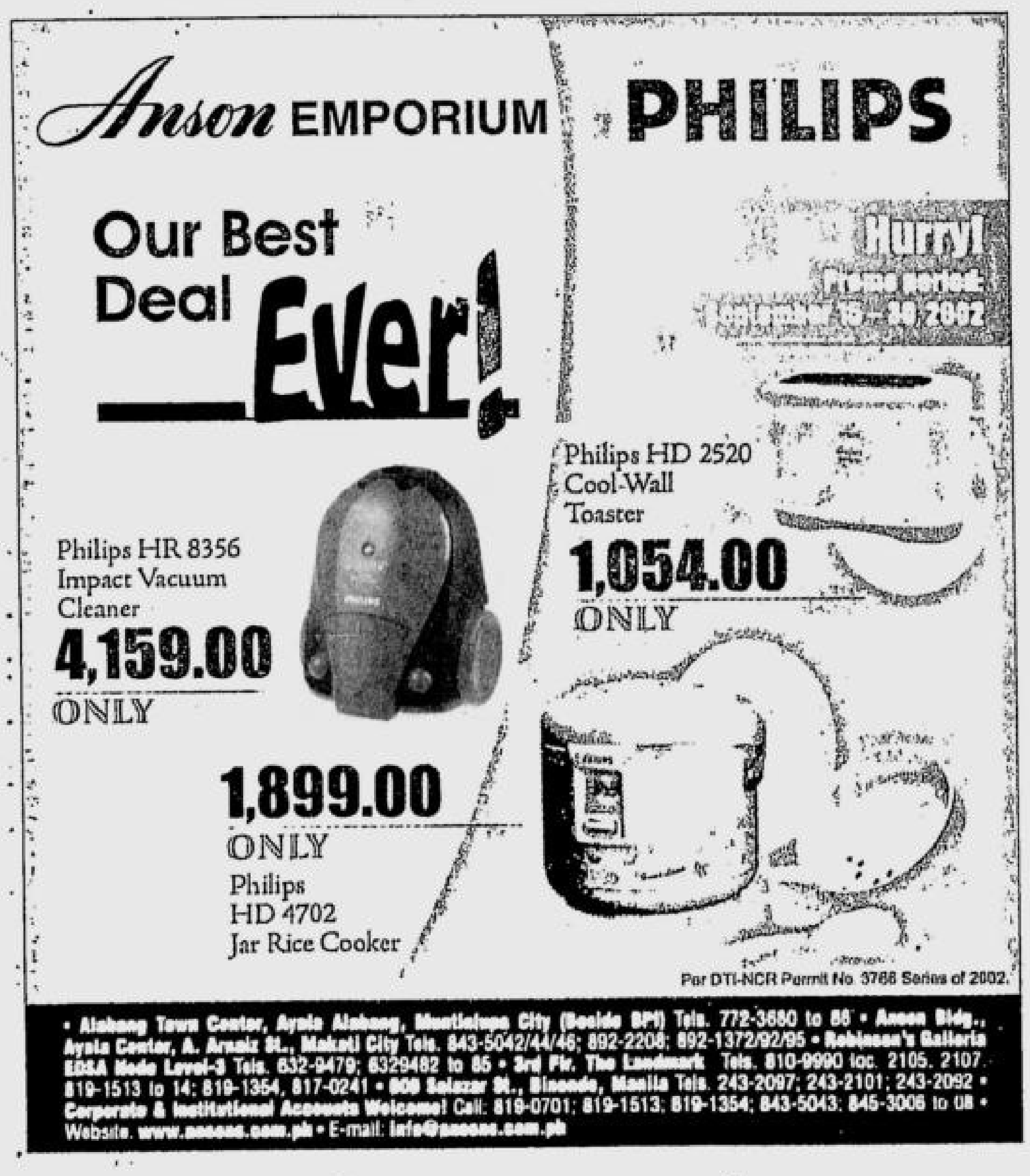
The NCRPO chief, Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco, told reporters that the NCRPO would sponsor the seminars designed by the Asian Institute for Management.

"The purpose of the seminars is to enhance their capability to manage their units and to improve their crime fighting capabilities," Velasco said.

He added that the seminars would be part of a concerted effort of the civil and business community in fighting crime.

"The course will be designed with subjects to improve the management skills of station commanders," Velasco said. "The station commanders should now be stakeholders in the peace and order situation in their respective areas."

While saying that there are "very good and successful" station commanders, Velasco added that "there is a need to integrate successful operations and case analysis so the others can benefit from it."



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Big 3 oil firms to put up green zone in Pandacan

By Jerome Aning

THE THREE big petroleum companies using the Pandacan oil depot have hired an urban planning agency to create a "green" buffer zone that would separate the facility from surrounding residential areas.

The zone, which would be known as the Pandacan Linear Park, is required by the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by Caltex, Petron and Shell with the Manila city government last June 26.

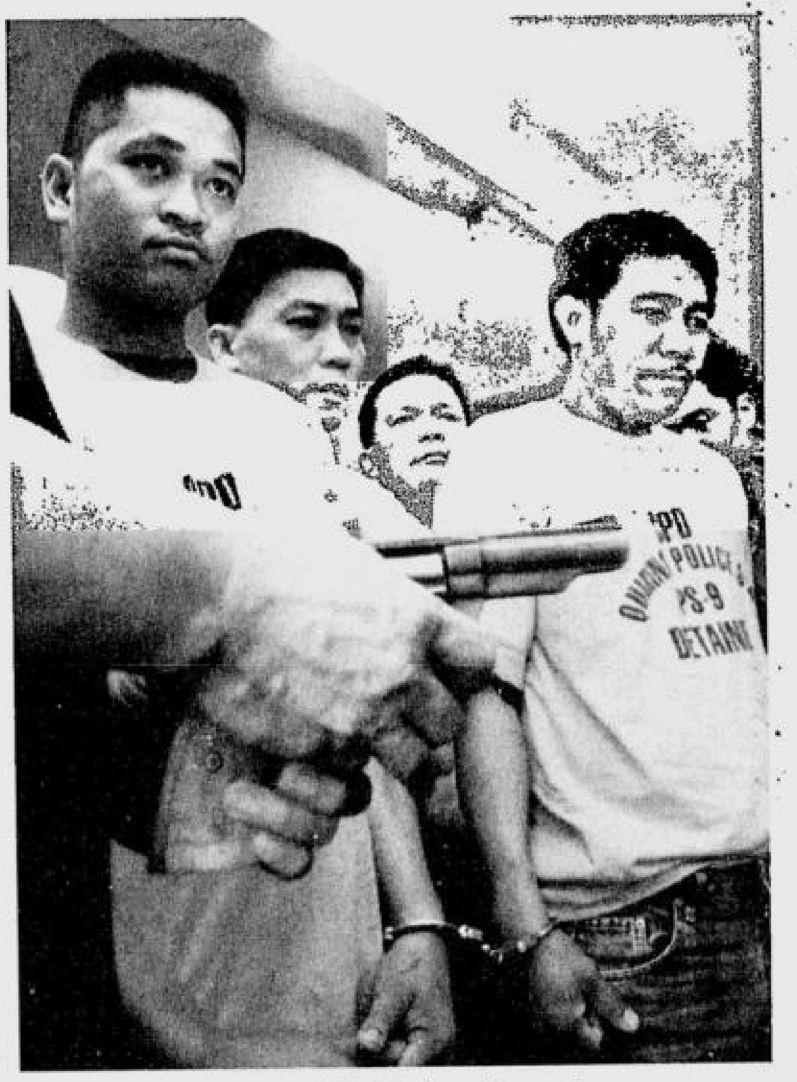
The three oil firms hried urban planner Palafox Associates to provide the detailed design and master plan of the buffer zone.

Architect Feliciano Palafox Jr. said what his agency would be principally doing is "environment improvement."

He said he is currently working on a more detailed site development plan and on-site engineering.

The oil firms are also required to reduce their operations by 40 percent and to erect a common depot.

Shell, Caltex and Petron negotiated the MOU due to City Hall insistence that the depot be shut down for endangering the community.



SUSPECTS Medes (left) and Madrigales and two others are presented to media people after their arrest.

DENNIS SABANGAN

4 carnap suspects fall

By Alcuin Papa

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office and the Central Police District on Tuesday arrested four suspected car thieves in Quezon City.

NCRPO chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco identified the suspects as Benjie Medes, 20, ; mechanic Jesus Madrigales, 42, both of Antipolo City; Rosauro Ibay and Micheal Bartolo.

They were arrested at about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday at the corner of Katipunan Avenue and Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City after Anna Cristina Bautista, the owner of a stolen gray Mitsubishi Lancer (UMN-677) spotted her car being driven by the suspects.

Bautista, 23, called police. She said the car had been taken from at gunpoint last Sept. 2 while she was travelling along Quirino Highway.

Members of the CPD Station 9 recovered the car, a .38 caliber pistol, an improvised handgun, two knives, a black bonnet and assorted keys from the suspects.

The suspects are now detained at the CPD jail.

1 dead in Edsa bus crash

LEONARDO Gingo was killed Wednesday night when the bus he was driving collided with another bus on Edsa in Quezon City.

Police said 20 other passengers were injured in the collision at about 10:30 p.m. on Edsa near Camp Aguinaldo.

Gingo, 47, of Quezon City, died on the spot, said SPO1 Marcelo Sabado of Quezon City Traffic Sector 3.

The driver of the other bus, Joven Francisco, 38, of the BNA Bus Co., surrendered to police right after the accident.

SPO1 Sabado said Gingo was driving a Lippad bus bound for Monumento when he swerved to another lane to avoid a car. But because the bus was moving fast, Gingo lost control of the vehicle and rammed into Francisco's bus. Gingo's bus overturned on impact and skidded several meters before it stopped, Sabado said.

Some of the injured passengers were taken to the East Avenue Medical Center. They were Aurora Sarazate, Gloria Viloria, Manny Ventura, Roger Dublian, Hermano Narisma, Cesar Landjasan, Angelo Rodriguez, Merlin Latusa, Angelica Bres, Manolo Tierra, Orlando Ulfindo, Felipe Maghenay, Artemio Gibb, Federico de Castro, Ruby Santiago, Analyn Gemposo and Adelo Laguinto.

Alcuin Papa

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From fugitive to avenger!

J. Lo strikes back in 'ENOUGH'

Slim (JENNIFER LOPEZ) is working hard as a waitress when she is swept off her feet by Mitch (BILLY CAMPBELL), a handsome, rich businessman. Convinced she's found her Prince Charming, Slim marries Mitch in a lavish wedding, and settles with him in a fabulous dream home, where they are soon blessed with a lovely daughter, Gracie (TESSA ALLEN).

But the dream turns into a nightmare when Mitch becomes unfaithful, and starts abusing her physically and emotionally. He expects her to accept his beating and cheating. "I'm the man," Slim's husband declares. "I work and bring home the money, so I make the rules."

Slim has had enough. With her friend Ginny's (JULIETTE LEWIS) help, she escapes with Gracie. Pursued by an increasingly dangerous husband, she prepares to fight back with all her might.

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5 GOLD (DOLBY) REVELATION
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8 JOLOGS
9 VOODOO
10 VAN WILDER

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2 LAMAN
3 TUKAAN
4 ROAD TO PERDITION
5 VOODOO
6 REIGN OF FIRE
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
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SEPT.18 TO 21
SCREENING TIME:5:15, 7:45, 10:15 PM
SEPT.22,23
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3
4

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4 LAMAN
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3 RESERVE
4 LAMAN
5 TUKAAN

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
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2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
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2 GAMITAN

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4 (SDDS) REIGN OF FIRE
5 (DTS) VOODOO
6 BOURNE IDENTITY
7 VAN WILDER

Farmers Plaza CINEMAS
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2 REIGN OF FIRE

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2 DERAILED
3 (DTS) REIGN OF FIRE

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1 INSOMNIA
2 (DTS) ROOKIE
3 (DOLBY) REIGN OF FIRE
4 DERAILED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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2 LAMAN
3 BOURNE IDENTITY
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3 BAKAT

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3 (DTS) DERAILED
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5 LAMAN

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2 DERAILED
3 SAGAD

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2 DERAILED
3 SAGAD

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2 DERAILED
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4 BOURNE IDENTITY

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2 SIGNS
3 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS

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2 DIVINE SECRETS...
3 BOURNE IDENTITY
4 HIGH RISK

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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2 LAMAN
3 (DTS) REIGN OF FIRE
4 SIMONE

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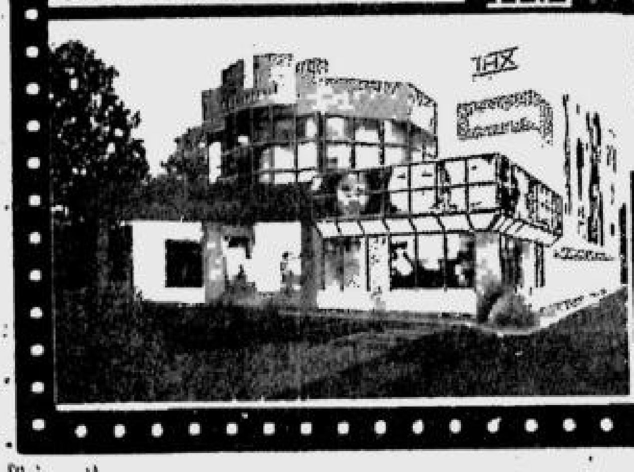

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5 REIGN OF FIRE
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7 REVELATION
8 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
9 SPIDER
10 VOODOO

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9350749
1 LEFT BEHIND
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3 JOLOGS
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10 TRIPLE X
11 LAMAN
12 TUKAAN

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6 REIGN OF FIRE
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10 HIGH RISK
11 SIMONE
12 TUKAAN

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1 SIMONE
2 VAN WILDER
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 REVELATION
5 LEFT BEHIND
6 SPIDER
7 VOODOO
8 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
9 JOLOGS
10 REIGN OF FIRE
11 TUKAAN
12 HIGH RISK

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 REVELATION
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8 REIGN OF FIRE

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2 SPIDER
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 VAN WILDER
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6 JOLOGS
7 LEFT BEHIND
8 REIGN OF FIRE
9 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
10 TUKAAN

SM CITY CEBU
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1 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2 AUSTIN POWERS
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5 HUMAN EATER
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7 SIGNS
8 HIGH RISK

SM CITY ILOILO
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3 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
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5 SIGNS
6 AUSTIN POWERS
7 CLOSED
8 HUMAN EATER

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1 REIGN OF FIRE
2 ROAD TO PERDITION
3 SEX & ZEN
4 TUKAAN
5 SIMONE
6 JOLOGS

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1 TUKAAN
2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 VAN WILDER

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2514302
1 ROAD TO PERDITION
2 TUKAAN
3 LEFT BEHIND
4 VAN WILDER

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2976998
1 AUSTIN POWERS
2 DERAILED
3 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4 BAKAT
5 HIGH RISK
6 SIGNS

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6 REIGN OF FIRE
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2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 VAN WILDER
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5 VOODOO
6 SIMONE
7 ROAD TO PERDITION
8 TUKAAN

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30
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2 BOURNE IDENTITY
3 ROAD TO PERDITION
4 LEFT BEHIND
5 VAN WILDER
6 SIMONE
7 VOODOO
8 REVELATION

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1 REIGN OF FIRE
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3 VAN WILDER
4 ROAD TO PERDITION
5 VOODOO
6 TUKAAN

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1 AUSTIN POWERS 3
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 SIGNS
4 LAMAN
5 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
6 SEX & ZEN

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1 AUSTIN POWERS 3
2 SIGNS
3 HIGH EXPLOSIVE
4 DERAILED
5 BAKAT
6 BOURNE IDENTITY

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6 ROAD TO PERDITION

malabon citisquare- soon to open.

ROAD TO PERDITION

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Richard Merk opens his own bar in Greenbelt 3

RICHARD Merk , the country's unchallenged jazz prince, opens his new place, Merk's Bar Bistro, on Friday, Sept. 27, at Greenbelt 3 of the Ayala Center in Makati City.

Since it is Merk's place, expect it to be a haven of fine music. It will also have fine food and fine company.

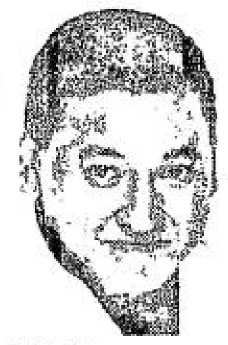
SHOWS

The famed Bistro Remedios will provide the food at the cozy Merk's, which will be open for lunch seven days a week.

And then, of course, there is the entertainment, courtesy of the country's best talents. The Q&A band performs on opening night.

The first Saturday at Merk's features the reunion of the legendary Blackbird Band, to which Richard used to belong.

For more information, call 830-8690.



MERCK

'70s 2Day'

GROOVE to the songs of the '70s in a two-night concert, "70s 2Day," Sept. 20 and 21 at Music Museum.

The star-studded roster of performers include Hajji Alejandro, Eugene Villaluz, Louie Reyes, Ding Mercado, Pat Castillo and Tillie Moreno.

The show is directed by Leo Rialp, with Mel Villena as musical director.

Repertoire includes hits from the '70s era like "Best of My Love," "Touch Me in the Morning," "You'll Never Find," "Lady Bump," "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman" and "Gotta Get You Into My Life."

The lineup of songs also includes popular duets like "Umagang Kay Ganda," "I Don't Love You Anymore," "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me," "Evergreen," "Endless Love," "Come What May," "Reunited" and "With You I'm Born Again," plus dance hits like "Mr. Melody" and "You'll Never Find."

The show is a production of ERV Entertainment, Inc.

Hard Rock Café

SOUTH Border conquers Hard Rock Café in a special performance at 9:30 tonight.

The group will dish out their hits and R&B classics.

Sept. 27, Wave 89.1 will mount a South Border concert also at Hard Rock.

On regular days, music buffs can enjoy other bands—Pido With Take One on Mondays, Rage on Tuesdays, Big on Wednesdays, The Company with Divas on Thursdays, Tribe of Levi and Real Groove on Saturdays, K.O. Jones on Sundays.

For reservations, call 893-4661 to 63.

For sreening times, call 729-7777
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 REIGN OF FIRE	1 VAN WILDER: PARTY LIAISON	THE 4TH ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL	REIGN OF FIRE 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30	ROAD TO PERDITION
2 SIMONE	2 THE BOURNE IDENTITY	AN AMERICAN RHAPSODY (EXCLUSIVE)	ROAD TO PERDITION 10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10	2 REIGN OF FIRE
3 VOODOO	3 REIGN OF FIRE 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, [illegible]00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00	Onstage GARY VALENCIANO HITS ONSTAGE SEPT 20, 27 & 28 -PM	AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4 ROAD TO PERDITION	4 REVELATION		4 THE BOURNE IDENTITY 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD
	5 DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD		SIMONE 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	VAN WILDER: PARTY LIAISON
	6 ROAD TO PERDITION			
	7 SIMONE			

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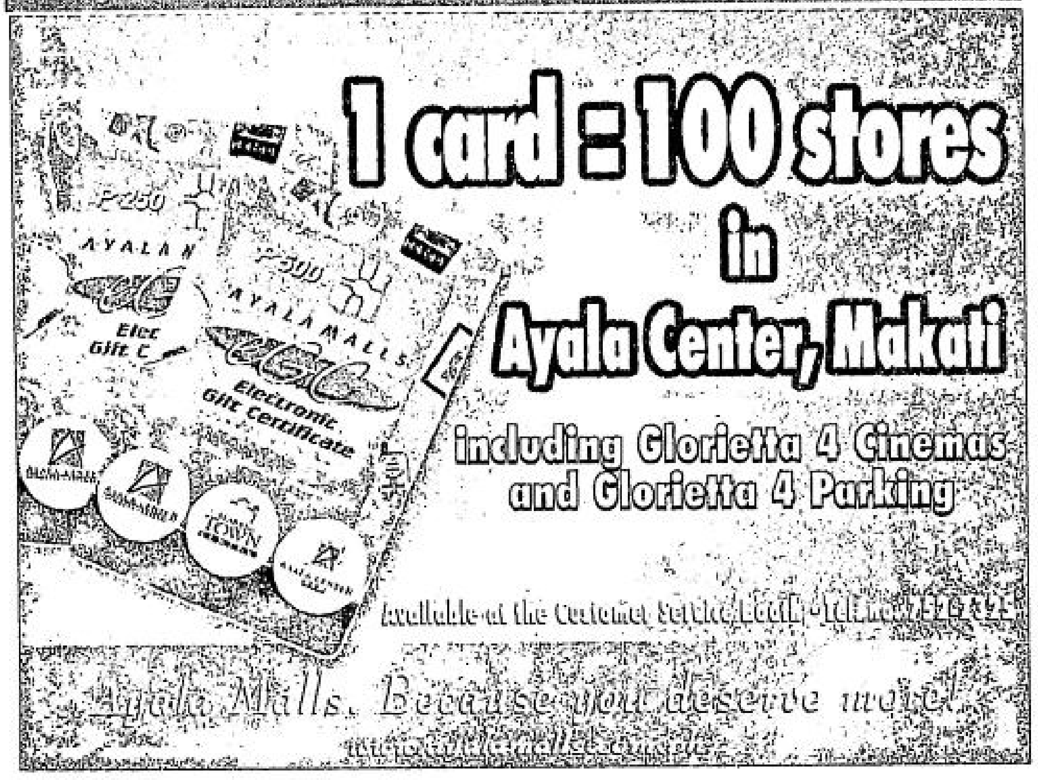
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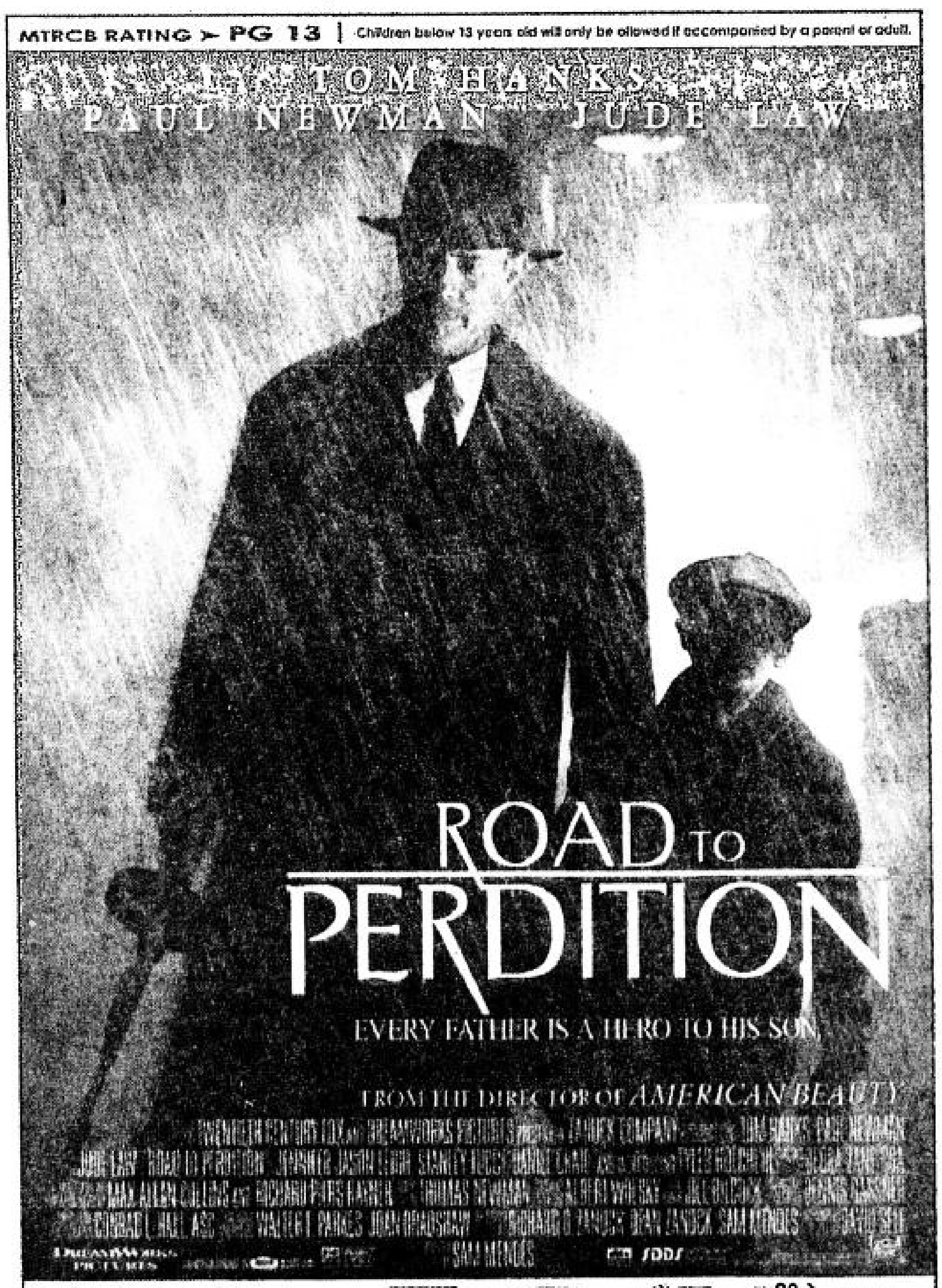
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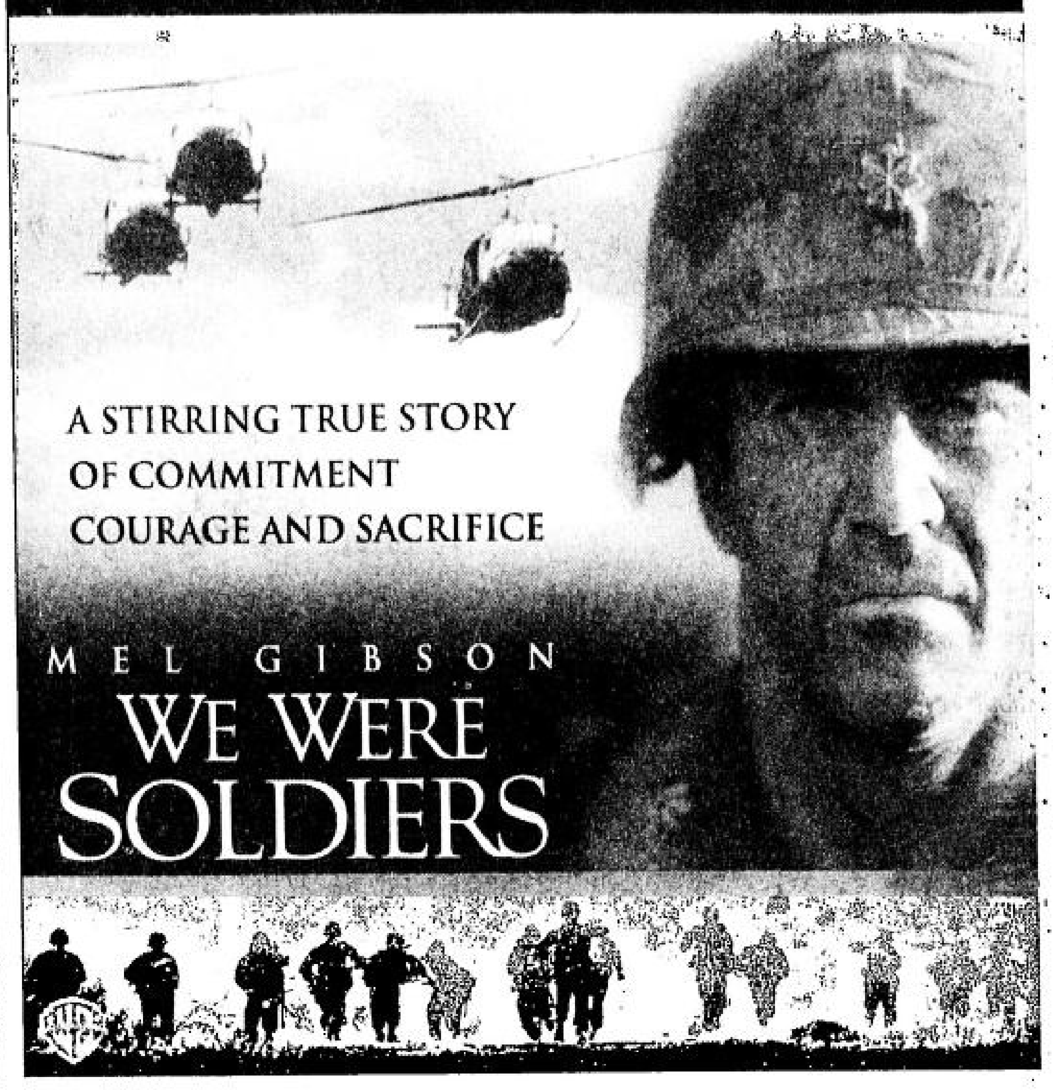
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Channels offer Vilma her own TV soap

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NOW that **Nora Aunor** is getting her own TV soap opera, expect **Vilma Santos** to also go the sudsy drama route soon. A number of channels are dangling juice offers in the hope of beating the competition to the Star for All Seasons' prized acquiescence.

Which channel's offer will Vilma favor? Factors include an exceptional script and co-workers both behind and in front of the cameras, and a taping schedule that won't adversely affect Vilma's work as mayor of Lipa City, and the "quality time" she devotes to her family.

What does this mean, in specific terms? The winning offer could be the one that assures Vilma that she will tape only once a week, or at most twice a week if the soap is shot in Lipa.

This is a big concession because soap opera stars spend much more time taping their episodes each week. For instance, **Lorna Tolentino** faces the cameras a taxing three days a week taping her show.

Could a more abridged taping schedule for Vilma work without the quality of her projected soap suffering? Yes, if on the days scheduled for her, she tapes only sequences that involve her character.

In other words, no waiting around for other regular cast members' scenes to be completed, just taping one sequence after another from early morning to midnight.

Trouble is, this relentless taping schedule is exhausting, and the exhaustion could affect Vilma's performance.

In Lorna's case, even with her three-day schedule, she looks tired when she's interviewed on TV recently during a break in her new show's taping schedule, she also came across as stressed and exhausted.

In fact, she looked like she didn't know what hit her. This is quite understandable, considering that she has been taking it easy for so long. Then, suddenly, she's taping from morning till night, with all those lines to memorize, blocking to learn, emotions to express, etc.! Is it any wonder that she looked weary and overwhelmed after only a few days of work?

So, Vilma should weigh her options carefully before doing her soap. The time factor isn't the most important consideration; what really counts is what viewers see on the screen.

If she can turn in an exceptional performance even with an abridged taping schedule, great. If her performance suffers, no amount of explanation will placate the people watching the show.

That's why we hope Vilma agrees to tape not just once a week, but twice—provided the taping is done in Lipa.

Now that her arch-rival Nora is back on TV, it would do Vilma good to also have her own soap. The two veteran stars' continuing rivalry, if played properly, could enhance both their careers.

It's true that, in the movies, Vilma is doing better than Nora because she has an important project, "Dekada '70," showing at the end of the year. But TV has become even bigger than the movies of late, so Vilma should match Nora's gambit there as well.

One final consideration: since Nora's new soap is on ABS-CBN, Vilma should think of doing her show on another channel, to heat up their latest competition even more.

Animation workshop

A SERIES of lectures on animated filmmaking will be held at the Negros Museum from Oct. 7 to 26 in the Bacolod Animation Workshop 2002.

Discover the basics of frame-by-frame filmmaking and transform drawings into animated short videos. Fill out application forms and submit a sample of your artworks to the Negros Museum, Old Provincial Capitol bldg., Bacolod City. Call Sarah at (034)434-5552.

The animation workshop is supported by the NCCI, Pagcor and Animagination.

Maricar de Mesa from 'That's' tweetums to 'Bedtime Stories'

From page A30

was required to make love with actor **Iras Melchor** on top of an embalming table.

"I play the dual role of twins in the story and the other one dies," she says. "The hardest scene was lying on top of an embalming table because it was cold. They also made me lie on a coffin and because I was too tired, I didn't know I dozed off while waiting for the take."

In the third episode, "Ecstasy," Maricar does a love scene with costar **Wendell Ramos** while standing on top of the bed.

Direk Maryo made sure Maricar was prepped for the many characters she was supposed to play. She was required to take up a two-day workshop with young director **Erik Matti**.

"I'm really physically and psychologically ready to go bold," Maricar allows. "This is a good story and I consider myself very fortunate to work with *Direk* Maryo and have a script written by Jun Lana.

Filming "Bedtime Stories" took its toll on Maricar's health. After shooting a scene with Wendell Ramos, which required her to work the whole night and get soaked in the rain till 8 a.m. the next day, Maricar was hospitalized.

"The role was too physical," Maricar shares. "We filmed it using rain effect so I was drenched all the time. After that, I got sick and I was confined. After two days, I thought I could work again, so I did. But four days later, I had a relapse so I was brought back to the hospital. It was a good thing I had a director who was easy to deal with and was very concerned about me."

Yet, despite the physical demands of her role, Maricar hardly complained.

"This is my most important and most challenging film to date," she says. "I'm proud of this movie. I worked hard for it and I'm not ashamed of what I did."

While her family was initially against her going bold, Maricar now enjoys the support of her loved ones. Her mom even accompanies her to some show-biz functions and guides her in the requirements of a role.

"I request her to go over my script and she tells me what I should discuss with my director," Maricar says. "She's always there when I need her help, but she never meddles in my career."

Maricar is also thankful of her manager, **Douglas Quijano**, for giving her direction in her entertainment career and choosing the right projects for her.

"He (Douglas) doesn't force me to do roles that I'm not comfortable with," Maricar says. "We turned down several offers before. But now, I'm ready to go bold."

On TV, Maricar breathes life to the challenging character of Olga in the GMA 7 soap series, "Sana ay Ikaw na Nga."

"Viewers recognize me as Olga, whether I'm in Manila, Boracay or Romblon," Maricar says.

Her next project on the big screen is a film with **Celso Ad Castillo**, the remake of "Nympha."

"I was told the role would require frontal nudity, but I don't think I'm ready for that yet," Maricar admits. "If I have to make a compromise with *Direk* Celso, I will do it."

Pinggot's first

CONGRATULATIONS to photojournalist **Pinggot Zulueta**, who opened his first digital art exhibit, "Images and Imageries," last Tuesday at the RCBC Plaza on Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pinggot also launched his book of the same title, which contains his choice digital shots and other photographs with text by poet **Vim Nadera**.

I attended the opening cocktails Tuesday night and saw the impressive works of Pinggot.

Guests of honor were Press Secretary **Ignacio Bunye**, Australian Ambassador **Ruth Pearce**, RCBC vice chair **Cesar Virata**, former chair of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts **Jaime Laya**, Australian Aid (Aus-Aid) First Secretary **Patricia Ludowyk** and **Helen Yuchengco Dee**, chair and CEO of the Yuchengco Group of Companies.

Also there were poet and director of the UP Creative Writing Department **Virgilio Almario** and Department of Budget and Management Undersecretary **Cynthia Castel**, as well as Pinggot's officemates **Shirley Pizarro**, **Ivy Lisa Mendoza** and photojournalists **Rudy Liwanag** and **Mon Acacio**.

Rudy told me he is now also working on his book of photos and images, to be released early next year.

Sexy singer-actress **Patricia Javier** came with her talent manager **Jessica Rodriguez**.

Pinggot's mentor, **Virgilio Pantaleon**, corporate communications head of the Yuchengco Group of Companies, said in the exhibit invite: "He (Pinggot) is a highly sensitive and imaginative artist."

Pinggot was visibly tense throughout the exhibit opening, but his happiness for fulfilling a longtime dream couldn't be contained, too. That night, he shared his joy with his wife **Vanessa (Zulueta)** and only daughter **Maria Paula**.

To Pinggot, I'm sure this is just the first. I'm looking forward to the next and many others after that.

Catch "Images and Imageries" until Sept. 30.

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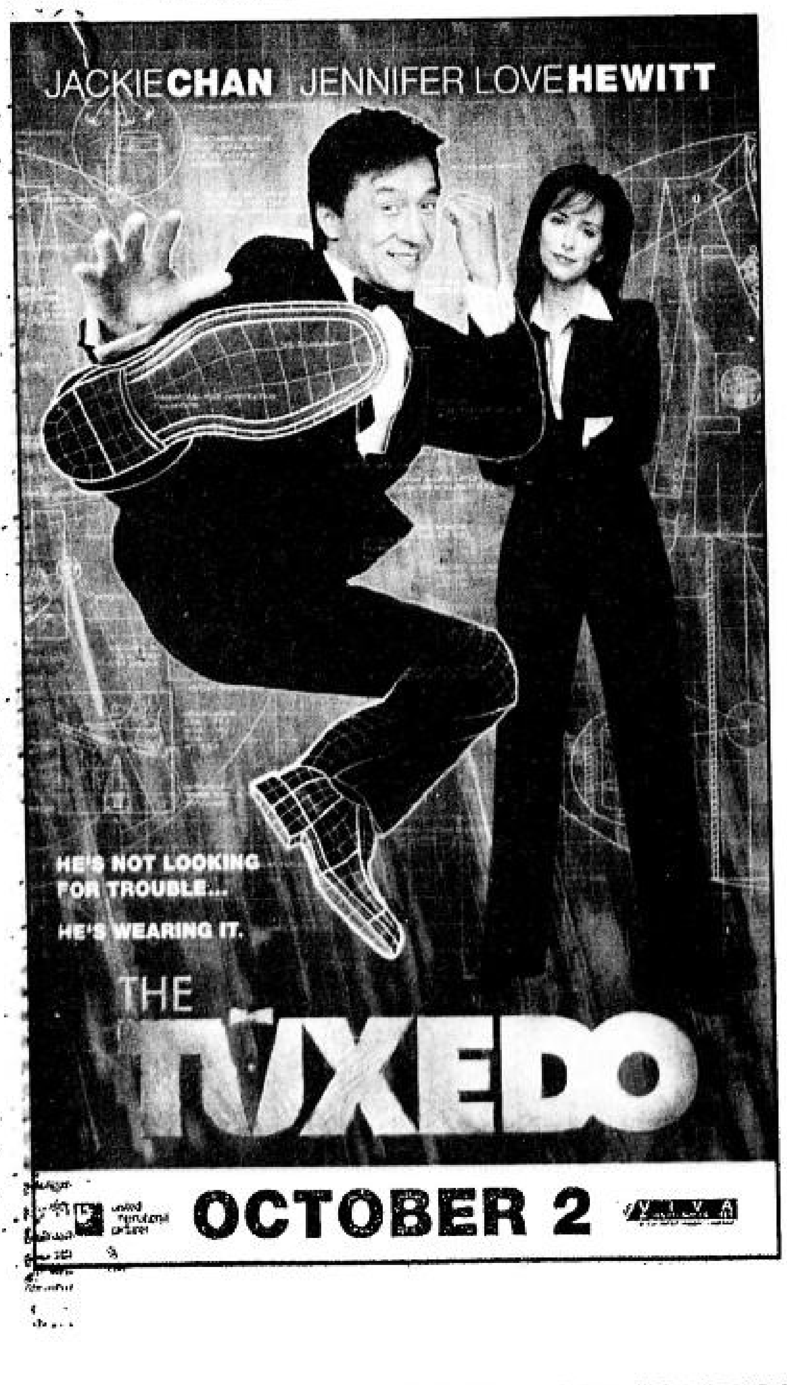

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	STARWARS / BIG FAT LIAR
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ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BAKAT
REMAR	TUKAAN
REMAR-2	BAKAT
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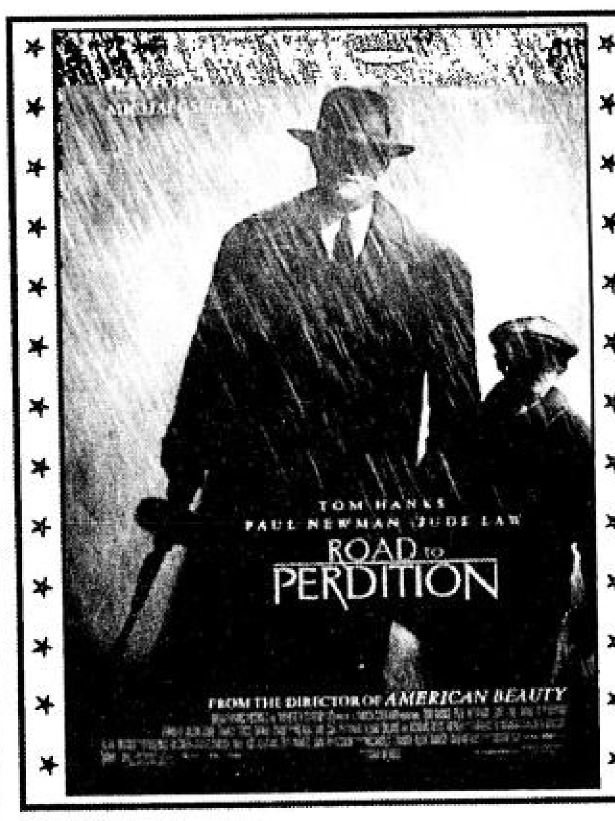
CINEMA-1	LAMAN
CINEMA-2	TUKAAN
CINEMA-3	JOLOGS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE IDENTITY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GAMITAN
CINEMA-6	XXX
CINEMA-7	YOUNG VIRGINS
CINEMA-8	SIMONE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	REIGN OF FIRE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ROAD TO PERDITION
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	REVELATION
CINEMA-12	VOODOO
CINEMA-14	VAN WILDER
CINEMA-15	LEFT BEHIND THE MOVIE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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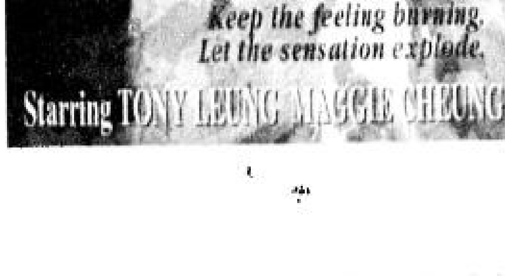
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Maricar de Mesa from 'That's' tweetums to 'Bedtime Stories'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHEN **Maricar de Mesa** joined show biz as a member of **German Moreno**'s "That's Entertainment" in the mid-'90s, she never imagined herself going sexy on the big screen. Her pretty face and charm made her perfect for good-girl roles. But unfortunately, Maricar wasn't given the proper exposure and the right breaks.

When an offer for her to do sexy movies came, Maricar was initially reluctant. But she was launched as a screen siren in "Katayan," with a much talked-about breast exposure.

Her entry to the bold bandwagon was not one that was marked with controversy, unlike other bombshells. In fact, Maricar is not one who thrives on intrigues just to gain publicity mileage.

Early this year, she starred in **Uro de la Cruz**'s "Buko Pandan," another sexy flick where her acting was cited by the Young Critics Circle.

Maricar swears going bold is not an easy job, especially with the spate of skin flicks lately and the rise of sexy stars in local cinema.

FROM SWEET TO BOLD. Maricar de Mesa in her most challenging and important role to date.

"You can't just do a breast exposure all the time," Maricar says. "You have to do something different for every movie and surpass what you previously did. Otherwise the audience will not remember you."

That is exactly what she does in her upcoming film, "Bedtime Stories," where she gets to work for the first time with director **Maryo J. de los Reyes**. The script is by award-winning writer **Jun Lana**.

Maricar swears "Bedtime Stories" is even more daring than her launching flick, "Katayan."

In "Katayan," she only did a breast exposure, much to the chagrin of her parents. But in "Bedtime Stories," Maricar plays four different characters, and since it's a trilogy, expect more skin-baring. She even gets to show her derriere.

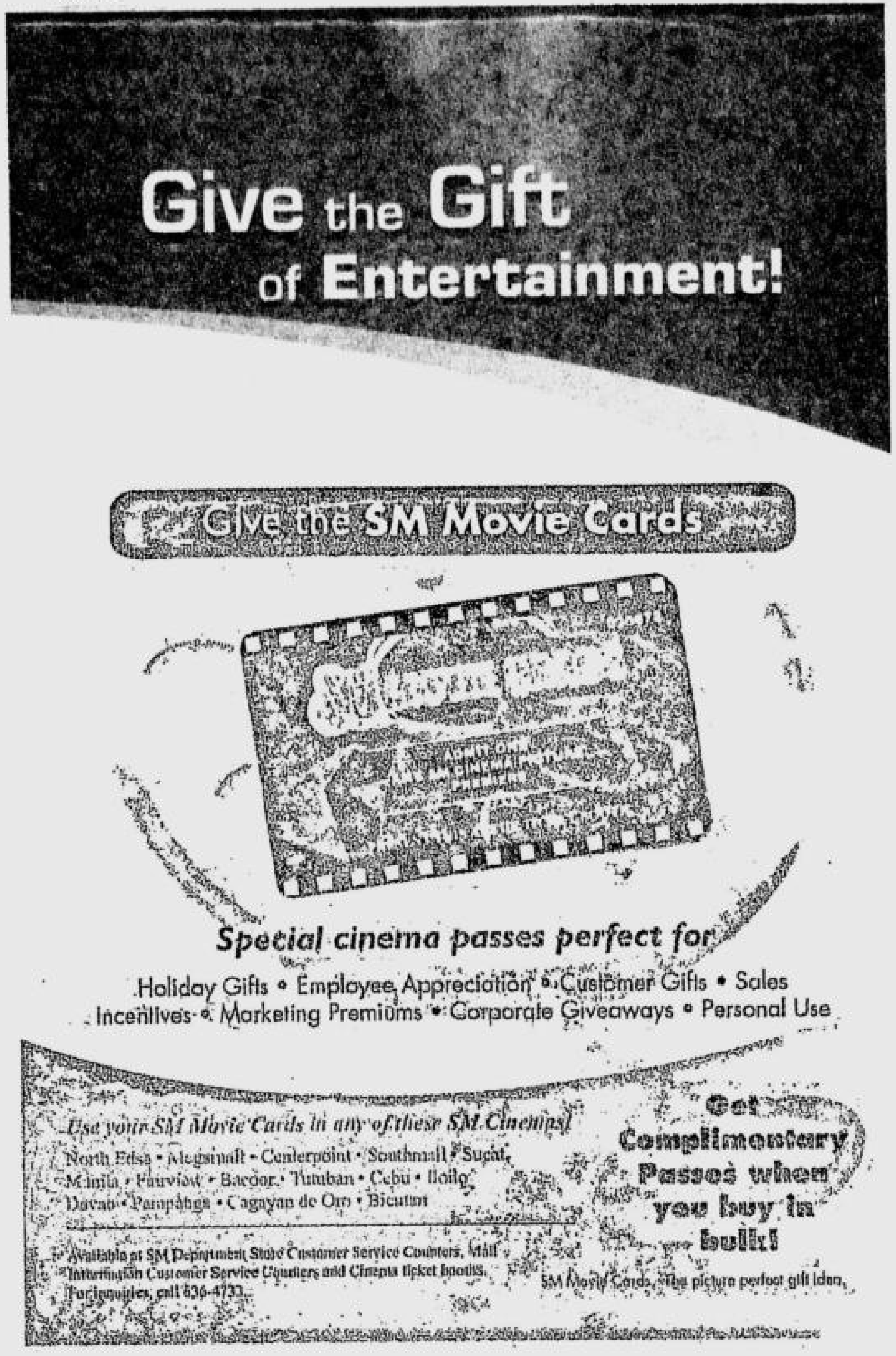
"My love scenes here are not the usual passionate scenes," Maricar offers. "Even the stories in the trilogy are not common. I had to compromise a lot with *Direk* Maryo in executing the sexy scenes and the love scenes. It's a good thing he knows my limitations and he understands."

In the first episode, which is about sado-masochism, Maricar plays a sex-starved battered wife who falls for a lesbian.

"There's a scene where **Anton Bernardo** forces me to do anal sex with him, from the bed to the stairs," Maricar shares. "I also get to kiss **Ynez Veneracion** who is the lesbian in the story. We were both screaming before we did it. It's a good thing we are friends. Doing that scene was awkward enough, but Ynez made it easier."

The second episode is "Necrophilia," where Maricar

MARICAR/A29



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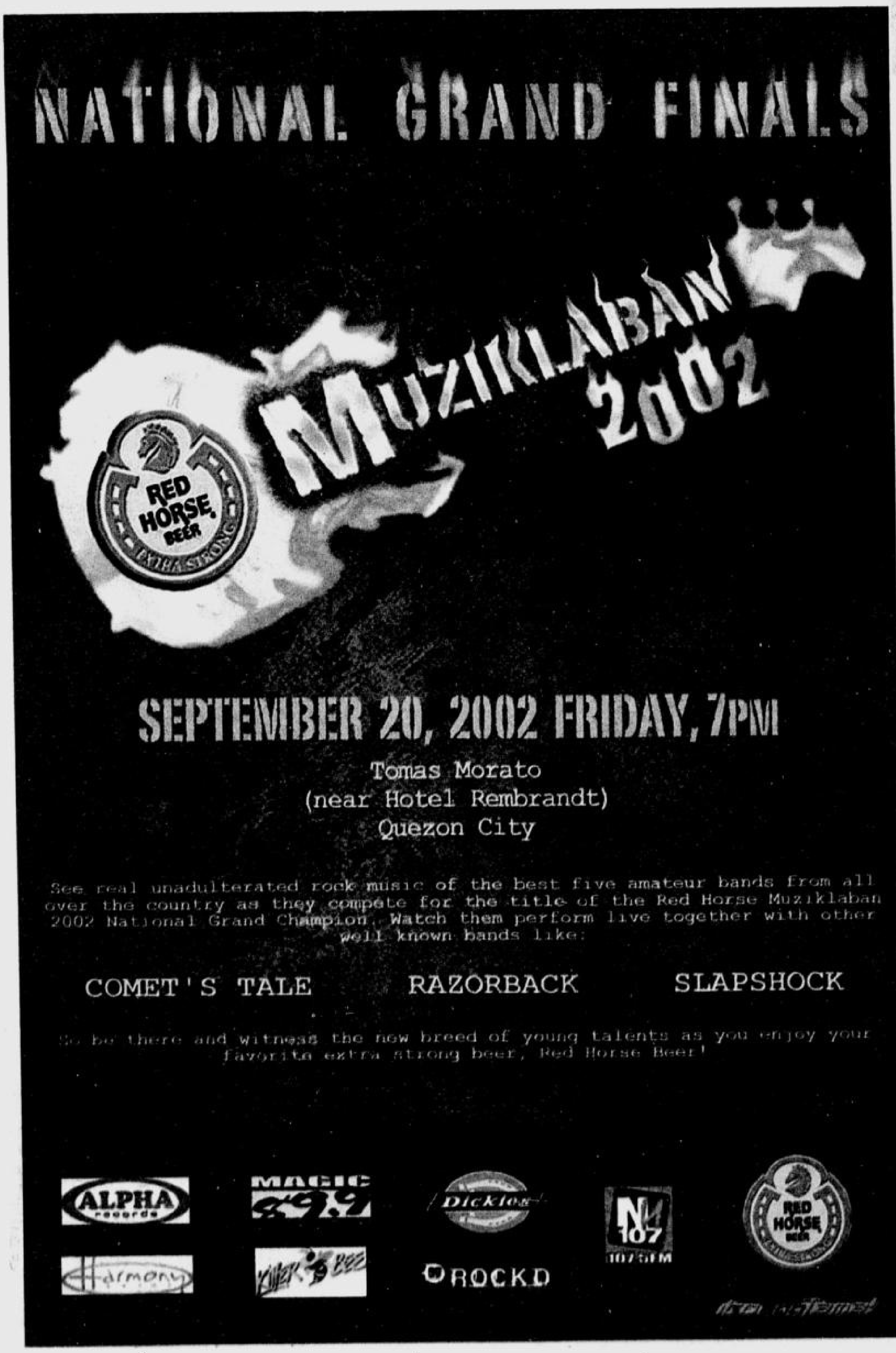

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Budget deficit swells to P144B in August

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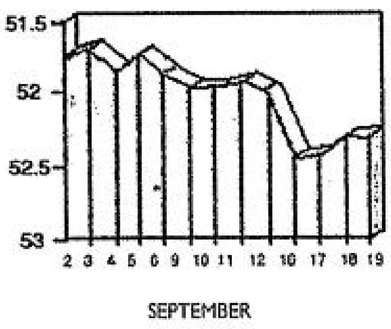

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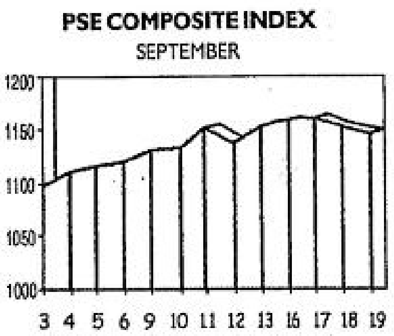


(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARES finished lower yesterday, as budget deficit data released by the government shortly before the market closed revived concerns over rising interest rates, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index lost 4.37 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,149.03, adding to Wednesday's 0.8-percent decline.

Interest-rate-sensitive stocks dominated yesterday's session.

"Apparently, the deficit did have some impact, spooking some investors a bit, at least in property stocks," said PCCI Securities Brokers president and managing director Francisco Liboro. "The specter of rising interest rates was there."

Higher interest rates traditionally sap demand for property development, analysts said. **AP**

Security Bank, Philam ink tie-up

PUBLICLY listed Security Bank Corp. and the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement on a strategic distribution partnership for the cross-selling of Philam's insurance products through the bank's branch network.

The agreement provides for the establishment of a 50-50 joint venture, Security Philam financial Solutions Inc., to serve as the marketing arm of the alliance between the two financial institutions.

In an interview, Philamlife president Jose Cuisia said: "We think it will be good for both of us. It will enable us to offer our world-class products through Security Bank's branch network."

SECURITY /B4

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT'S budget deficit swelled to P144.03 billion as of August as revenues reached only P364.62 billion against expenditures of P508.66 billion.

The 8-month shortfall was P3 billion shy of the full-year fiscal gap in 2001, but lower than the P150-billion forecast of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho for the period.

Compared to the targets for the first three quarters of 2002, government revenues as of August were about 80 percent while expenditures were already 90 percent of the programmed levels.

"This number is very encouraging and much lower than the preliminary number I was expecting, considering that August was a very uncertain month specially for the Bureau of Internal Revenue," Camacho said.

The finance secretary said he hoped the financial markets would not react negatively to the latest deficit number as the growing fiscal slippage should have been discounted in previous months specially against the backdrop of a P130-billion full-year deficit target.

Camacho said he was confident the government's deficit would not exceed 4 percent of the country's gross domestic product for the year. With a 4-4.5 percent estimated growth in GDP, the targeted budget deficit would be equivalent to P162 billion.

"The growing deficit is definitely a cause for concern given that the economy would not be as robust in the last four months of the year because of the global slowdown," said Raul T. Concepcion, chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries.

However, Concepcion credited the BIR for initiating efforts to improve tax collection by zeroing in on taxpayers found cheating on their value-added tax obligations.

Camacho said the preliminary indications for September was also encouraging particularly with the seemingly smooth transition in the leadership at the BIR.

Former Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez resigned last Aug. 9 and his successor, Guillermo Parayno, only took his oath last Aug. 30. Camacho said the early days of August "was really bad for revenues."

But with earlier efforts to instill discipline among taxpayers, including an intensive audit of VAT payments, Camacho said the deficit, on a monthly basis, had been declining from an average of P20 billion a month during the first semester to P13.4 billion in July.

The deficit in August reached only P10.9 billion, which was the lowest monthly gap for the year, as revenues rose by 14.8 percent to P51.53 billion. Spending, however, grew by one percent to P62.46 billion compared to last year and was P2.5 billion more than the previous month's.

Parayno said the bureau's collection in August was only about P5 billion lower than the target.

The Bureau of Customs also

BUDGET /B4

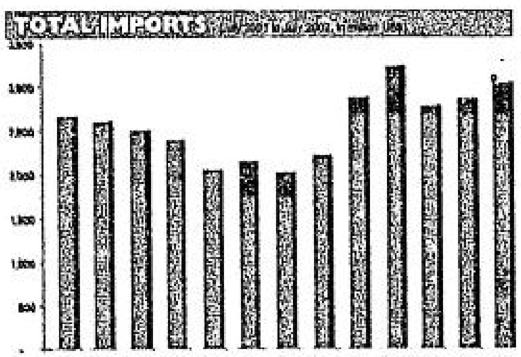
Imports still rising; July shipments up 13.6%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STRONG shipment of electronic inputs fueled a 13.6-percent growth in the country's import bill in July to $3.02 billion from a year ago, marking its sixth straight month of expansion following the dramatic turnaround in local industrial production.

The robust import growth reflected the improved business confidence and sustained export rebound leading to the country's stronger economic recovery. The industrial sector can also make up for any weakness in farm output that may be triggered by the El Niño dry spell, which is forecast to hit the Philippines later this year, analysts said.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the country's import bill from January to July has now increased by 5.7 percent from the same period last year to $18.94 billion as against export receipts which have gained by 6.9 percent to $19.86 billion. The resulting trade surplus of $915 million was 37.1 percent better than the previous year's.



Payments for electronics and components surged by 65 percent to $777.63 million in July from the same month last year, accounting for 25.7 percent of the total bill.

Purchases of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials ranked second with a share of 11.9 percent, rising by 7.4 percent from a year ago, while office and electronic data processing machines accounted for the next biggest group and posted a 60.8-percent increase.

Telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery, accounting for 7.7 percent of the total import bill, ranked fourth but payments dipped by 5.8 percent from last year.

Expenditures for industrial machinery and equipment, contributing 4.1 percent share to the aggregate bill, went down by 11.2 percent. Transport equipment accounting for 3.9 percent of the total bill, was the country's sixth top import for the month with payments rising by 12.9 percent from a year earlier.

Based on broader category, capital goods led by telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery accounted for 40 percent of the total bill (up by 26 percent) while raw materials and intermediate goods including electronic inputs gobbled up 38.2 percent (up by 9.7 percent). Purchases of mineral fuel and lubricant (up by 7.4 percent) and consumer goods (down by 9.1 percent) respectively accounted for about 12 percent and 7.2 percent.

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BOP surplus hits $1.73B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY recorded a balance of payments surplus of $1.729 billion in the first six months of the year, against a deficit of $606 million in the same period last year, as inflows from trade, investments and borrowings continued to surge, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

It also said the current account surplus for the six-month period stood at $3.445 billion compared with the year-ago surplus of $1.448 billion.

The country's balance-of-payments yielded a surplus of $1.729 billion during the first half of the year, reversing the $606 million in deficit a year ago as inflows from trade, investment and borrowings continued to surge.

In June, however, the BOP posted a deficit of $160 million even after the government secured a fresh $300-million loan from the seven-year global bond market.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the encouraging external payments position during the six-month period boosted the government's confidence of meeting a $150-million BOP surplus for the year from a deficit of $192 million in 2001.

Buenaventura said the country's BOP position should improve to a surplus of more than $200 million in 2003.

An indicator of investor confidence and the country's ability to settle its obligations, the BOP is influenced by two items—the current account that reflects movement in trade and the capital and financial account that mirrors the flow of investments and borrowings.

A BOP surplus means the inflow of funds is greater than the outflow. A strong BOP position helps stabilize the local currency as it staves off demand for dollars.

The positive movement in the trade account reflected the recovery of the exports sector that posted a growth of more than 6 percent in July from a contraction of 15.7 percent last year. At the same time, imports grew by 10.3 percent.

Buenaventura said the current account was also buoyed by a stronger dollar remittance from overseas workers and an improving tourism business.

The deficit in capital and financial account, the other major component of the BOP, also slowed down by 42.4 percent to $1.488 billion from $2.249 billion in June 2001.

The bulk of this component is the financial account that posted a deficit of $1.481 billion or 40 percent lower than last year's deficit of $2.249 billion. The financial account consists of direct investments, portfolio investments, and other investments like foreign borrowings and foreign deposits.

'ANTI-OVERSEAS WORKERS'

Focus on US talks, gov't told

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE Airlines has asked the government to defer scheduled air talks with various countries so it could focus on negotiations for air rights agreement with the United States.

PAL, in a position paper submitted to the Philippine Air Negotiating Panel on Sept. 5, expressed "grave concerns and strong reservations" over the holding of negotiations with several countries in the next six months.

PAL asked the panel to, instead, pursue and focus on the talks for an air rights agreement with the United States which has "tremendous long-term consequence to the national interest."

The panel is scheduled to hold talks with Bahrain and the UAE this month; China, Korea and Japan next month; Switzerland and Burma in November, and Brunei, Malaysia and Qatar early next year.

"It is difficult to understand the urgency given to the concerns and requirements of other countries when we may need to focus instead on important issues involving the survival and growth of our airline and tourism industries by pursuing urgent Philippine requirements for air talks with the United States and Japan. If these non-urgent talks push through, we fear that the RP Air Panel will be left with little time to schedule, prepare for and hold vital RP-US air talks, which need to be started, if not in September, then in October or November at the latest," PAL said.

A support group for overseas Filipino workers, however, criticized PAL's position saying it was an "anti-OFW stance."

The Kapisanan ng mga Kamag-anak ng Migranteng Manggagawang Pilipino Inc. (Kakammpi), in a statement, accused PAL of belittling the OFWs' contribution to the Philippine economy.

Kakammpi belied PAL's statement saying that OFWs based in the Middle East remitted around $500 million last year, with more than 103,000 of them based in the UAE and 23,000 in Bahrain.

"We are deeply disturbed by the efforts undertaken by PAL in stopping the talks between the Philippines and United Arab Emirates for expanded air access. It is bad enough that Filipinos have to leave their homes and their families for abroad just to survive. PAL's action is totally unconscionable and must be condemned in the strongest terms," Kakammpi chair Fe Nicodemus said.

Congress urged to clarify BCDA's functions, powers

A PAMPANGA lawmaker wants Congress to redefine the powers of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) to ensure that it will continue to have an oversight function over the development of the former American military base in Clark.

Rep. Oscar Rodriguez of the third district of Pampanga said he would file a bill seeking to lay down the functions and jurisdiction of the Bases Conversion Development Authority over Clark Development Corp. "to put things in their proper perspective."

Rodriguez was apparently concerned over the impasse at the CDC board on the proposed location for an SM mall in the Clark Special Economic Zone.

The BCDA has opposed the CDC management's decision to allocate a lot near the Salakot entrance of the CSEZ for the SM mall because it would worsen the traffic volume along MacArthur Highway and throw a monkey wrench on the government's long-term development plan for Central Luzon. The CDC board has deferred its decision on the issue for two months to give decision makers more time to review the project.

Rodriguez questioned why the CDC management did not consult the BCDA before endorsing the plan to the CDC board. He said a clearer definition of the charter of the BCDA and CDC should help avoid future disputes between the two agencies.

Banks asked to increase loans to SMEs

THE MACAPAGAL administration is asking banks to lend more aggressively to small and medium enterprises and proponents of housing projects to help spur economic growth that is driven more by domestic industries than by the export sector.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he had met with the Bankers Association of the Philippines Wednesday night and with officials of the state-owned banks yesterday morning to help drum up support for domestic-led growth by improving the prospects of medium-sized industries and housing proponents.

"We don't want to rely entirely on exports which is largely influenced by external factors. We want to promote the domestic economy particularly the SMEs and we hope the banks will help us by improving these sectors' access to credit," said the finance chief.

Camacho said the Department of Trade and Industry would complement the efforts of the banks by assisting SMEs in coming up with papers that would facilitate their bank transactions.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II will spearhead a campaign with industry associations to promote the growth of SMEs and to help them gain better access to bank funds, said Camacho.

The influential BAP, Camacho said, had complied with the law requiring banks to set aside about 10 percent of their total loanable funds to SMEs.

Camacho said banks were willing to be more active in SME lending but the small and medium companies also have to comply with the procedures like preparing their financial statements.

"The government must take on the role of a marriage broker," said the finance secretary.

Camacho said Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines had vowed to improve their relationship with SME clients. He said both banks already have about P38 billion in total loans to SMEs.

Camacho said SMEs, particularly those engaged in housing, have huge multiplier effects on the economy.

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PETROCHEM TARIFFS

Singapore, Thailand set talks with RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SINGAPORE and Thailand loom as the main stumbling blocks to the Philippine government's aim of extending the tariff protection on its petrochemical industry beyond 2003 when the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) is set into motion.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas said Thailand and Singapore were gearing up to hold bilateral consultations with the Philippines during which they were expected to lay down their demands for compensation in exchange for agreeing to let the Philippines exempt its petrochemical industry from regional trade liberalization.

Singapore is currently the biggest supplier of petrochemical products to the Philippines while Thailand has emerged in recent years as a major petrochemical player in the industry.

A delay in tariff cuts on resins would prevent them from gaining greater access to the large Philippine market.

These countries demanded compensation from the Philippines to make up for the lost opportunity which would come in the form of trade concessions such as increased market access for other products.

During the recent Asean Senior Economic Officers meeting in Brunei, Roxas invoked the Asean Protocol to give it an option to secure temporary relief from tariff reduction for petrochemical products.

The government, which had previously been steadfast in its free trade stance, has apparently bowed to lobbying from petrochemical firms that wanted to raise duties on resins to 30 percent to give them more time to strengthen their operations and put up a naphtha cracker before being left to the mercy of the international market.

Duties on resins, the main output of petrochemical firms used as raw materials for plastic, are set to go down to 5 percent next year from its present level of 15 percent under the Afta-Common Effective Preferential Tariff agreement.

The Protocol provision was adopted by Asean members to allow its members having a tough time implementing their CEPT commitments to temporarily delay the transfer of a product from the temporary exclusion list to the inclusion list.

Products under the inclusion list are deemed ready for tariff cuts while those in the temporary exclusion list would maintain some form of tariff protection.

Roxas noted that Malaysia was the only other country that has so far invoked the Protocol to protect her domestic automotive industry.

Roxas said Malaysia successfully worked out an amicable settlement with Indonesia and Thailand, the main opponents of the auto tariff delay, where they agreed to work on cooperative arrangements on possible joint cooperation in auto parts manufacturing and the steel industry.

Seair seeks foreign investors

By Abigail L. Ho

CLARK Field, Pampanga—Domestic carrier South East Asian Airlines (Seair) is currently in talks with four potential foreign partners that will help finance its three-year, $45-million expansion program.

In an interview yesterday, Seair chair Iren Dornier disclosed that the company was willing to let go of even a majority stake in the company if a suitable investor would be found.

He said the airline was currently in talks with four potential equity investors from Asia and the United States.

Seair director Nikos Gitsis said growth for the past two years had been doubling. This year, the company expected to grow by 50 percent by year's end and 25 percent by next year.

By the end of 2005, Dornier said Seair aimed to have fully operational bases in Manila, Cebu, Zamboanga, and Puerto Princesa City in Palawan and at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark.

The domestic carrier currently holds fort at the Clark Special Economic Zone. It has six 19-seater aircraft in its fleet, with two more coming before Christmas.

Dornier said Seair preferred to maintain only one type of aircraft in its fleet to keep operating costs down.

He added that small aircraft were best suited to its business of servicing places with small runways.

"But if our network improves, we'll eventually expand to 50- to 70-seater planes. We'll combine our existing small planes with bigger aircraft," he said.

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SUZUKI

Correct books or lose business with gov't, 2 big banks warned

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday warned Deutsche Bank AG and Credit Suisse First Boston that they could lose their business with the Philippine government should banking regulators find them "double-counting" their transactions here.

"Reports of double-counting definitely affect their credibility and will certainly affect their business with us, and it is not just us. The market will also punish them," Camacho told reporters.

A trader for Deutsche Bank has been sacked over an announcement that his bank has concluded a $500-million deal for the government on behalf of the National Power Corp.

Camacho said in this particular case, the deal was "on-lent," meaning Deutsche Bank was simply used as a middleman for the borrowing that was eventually channeled to Napocor.

In other words, he explained, there was no new transaction.

Deutsche Bank has started an investigation into false statements made by some of its own officials to IFR Asia, a regional finance publication.

The case stemmed from a report that came out in IFR Asia more than a week ago that Deutsche Bank completed a new $500-million Philippine borrowing.

Certain officials of Deutsche Bank were said to have attempted to claim credit in Thomson Financial's league tables when they told IFR Asia that the $500 million represented a new Philippine debt deal of the bank when it actually was part of the $1-billion sum that the government borrowed on behalf of Napocor in March this year.

The Department of Finance is now looking into reports that Credit Suisse has also double-counted one of the transactions it has wrapped up for the government.

"They would have a hard time unless they give us an offer that would be very beneficial to the government, and we could save a lot of basis points. In other words, it has to be very cheap," Camacho said.

Observers suggested, however, that Camacho's statements could merely be empty threats.

PLDT, SM in phone card tie-up

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has entered into a partnership with retail tycoon Henry Sy's SM group of companies to offer the country's first-ever hybrid pay phone and theme park card.

The new "SM Storyland Fonkard Plus" will allow users to place calls using more than 12,000 PLDT card phones nationwide and avail of rides at Storyland theme parks at SM's Southmall and Fairview branches.

"The card introduces a new dimension to its services by enhancing its utility. Aside from being the leading pay phone card with the lowest rate for voice calls, it is now the first prepaid pay phone card that can be used as a payment facility for non-telephone transactions," PLDT Fonkard product manager Ane Guzman said in a statement.

PLDT vice president for marketing Joaquin San Agustin said the new card was a "groundbreaking innovation in the market" that would give PLDT Fonkard users the convenience of a single card for two different kinds of transactions.

He said more "multi-application" phone cards were in the pipeline.

Its hybrid phone card is only one of PLDT's efforts to give more value-added services to its customers, he said.

The SM Storyland Fonkard Plus will be sold in only one denomination: P200.

"It is easy to use in that it works through a simple "plug and play" operation that does not require its users to remember any key words or access codes," San Agustin said.

Users only need to swipe the cards into the SM Stroyland terminals, and they already get access to games and rides in the indoor theme park. The amount of the transaction is then subtracted from the total card value.

Glasgow victims to get 67% of money

By Elena R. Torrijos

ONLY 67 percent of net placements in Glasgow Credit and Collection Services Inc. may be returned to over 9,000 investors, the Securities and Exchange Commission has estimated.

An official of the SEC said the Anti-Money Laundering Council wanted to return the money of Glasgow's investors by next week, but there were questions on how to handle the amount of disputed claims.

Based on records gathered by the SEC, validated claims—those representing the amount invested in Glasgow less interest payments—amounted to P893 million. The money came from 9,121 investors.

There were some 625 investors, however, who claimed that they invested around P141.39 million, but their names were not on the list of investors submitted to the SEC by Glasgow.

There were also around 1,188 individuals and groups in the Glasgow list who supposedly had a net investment of some P126.8 milion, but they too were not on the list of investors that filed claims with the SEC.

There was also a questionable P5.55-million investment made by a certain company.

The SEC has refused the AMLC's request for it to be the one to disburse the money to Glasgow's investors.

The commission insisted that the investors should instead be directed to get their money directly from the banks where Glasgow's funds were frozen.

The AMLC is supposed to decide exactly how Glasgow investors could get back their money from the frozen accounts in five banks.

MWSS gets new loan to pay old debts

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System has borrowed another $15 million from a foreign investment bank to pay debts that its private concessionaires have already assumed.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho signed yesterday an agreement for the government to fully guarantee the MWSS' fresh borrowings with Keppel Investments Inc.

The MWSS sealed early this year a $25-million short-term loan from Banco de Oro Universal Bank, followed by a $100-million loan from Deutsche Bank AG.

The new borrowing from Keppel will be in the form of short-term bonds maturing after a year, with an interest of 2.25 percent over three-month London interbank offered rate.

"I think the MWSS is simply borrowing for the meantime, while it has not resolved some issues on the concession agreement. But I think the concession agreement provides for a repayment of some sort. It's up to them to sort it out," Camacho said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, September 19, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.25	18.75	19.25	751,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	47	46.5	47	1,332,600
China Banking Corp.	625	625	625	625	560
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	20,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	29	29	29	29	253,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34.5	35	34.5	35	191,100
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	20,500
Security Bank Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12	128,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1145	1145	1135	1135	1,020
Sun Life Financial Serv.	885	885	885	885	540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	370,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	505	505	505	505	3,200
Ipeople Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.71	90,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	500,000
Piltel	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	297.5	297.5	292.5	295	70,100
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	3,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	7,300
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	1,003,500
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.62	1,495,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.5	2.5	2.48	2.48	384,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	90,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	103,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.75	14	280,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31	31	31	31	28,500
RFM Corp.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.9	170,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53	54	53	54	552,200
San Miguel Corp. B	56.5	56.5	56	56	775,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	3,253,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	300,000
APC Group Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	300,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.245	0.26	0.24	0.24	5,220,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	14	14	13.5	13.5	541,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	2,500,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1,490,000
Ionics Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	3,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	243,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.58	2,730,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	3,070,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	200,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.9	4	3.9	4	181,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	210,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	80,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	110,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	680,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	370,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.21	0.28	0.21	0.28	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	39,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	4	4	4	4	1,000
Far Eastern University	470	470	470	470	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.7	4,278,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	1,730,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.06	1.06	10,908,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	800,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	1,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	97,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8	8,058,000
MINING					
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	90,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	1,030,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	13,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	700,000
South China Resources Inc	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	90,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,719,220	95,390,725.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	31,892,300	170,294,655.00
PRO	26,672,000	83,903,380.00
Mining	6,120,000	352,200.00
OIL	14,820,000	91,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	82,233,520	350,059,460.00

AVERAGES

Bank & Fin Svc	455.14	UP 1.69
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,574.37	DOWN 0.25
PRO	514.47	DOWN 14.36
Mining	1,093.88	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.34	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	630.96	DOWN 10.60
Composite	1,149.03	DOWN 4.27

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15; NO. OF DECLINES: 26; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 43; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84; NO. OF TRADES: 1,361

Queenbee Resources Corporation
6/F Jollibee Plaza, No. 10 Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Centre, Pasig City

NOTICE TO ALL WARRANT-HOLDERS
September 10, 2002

Dear Warrant-holders,

We write you in relation to the 220 million Warrants issued by Queenbee Resources Corporation ("QRC") on March 24, 1998, which grant the holders thereof, among others, the right to the delivery or sale of one common share of par value P1.00 of Jollibee Foods Corporation pursuant to the terms of the Warrant Instrument executed on March 11, 1998 by QRC in favor of the Warrant-holders.

We would like to remind you that the last day for you to exercise your rights is on March 24, 2003 (the "Expiry Date").

As stated in the Warrants Instrument, the Warrant Exercise Right is exercisable upon payment of the Exercise Price of P0.25 at any time prior to the Expiry Date. With the passage of the Retail Trade Liberalization Law of 2000, foreign nationals can now own JFC shares. However, because JFC owns land, such foreign ownership is limited to 40% of the outstanding capitals stock of Jollibee Foods Corporation ("JFC") was owned by foreign nationals.

Unless otherwise extended or renewed pursuant to the Philippine law and regulations and with the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), *the Warrants will automatically expire after the close of business hours on 24th March, 2003 and such Warrants remaining unexercised at that time shall forthwith lapse and cease to have any force and effect*. Thus, we encourage you to exercise your rights as Warrant-holders. It is in your best interest to do so well before the Expiry Date on March 24, 2003.

We have attached for your reference Relevant Sections in the Information Memorandum relating to the Warrants Offer.

As prescribed under Condition 15.2 of the Warrants Instrument, this notice will be published in one leading English language newspaper circulating in London and New York City and one leading English language newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila.

Very truly yours,

(*Sgd*) WILLIAM TAN UNTIONG
Corporate Secretary
Queenbee Resources Corporation

Relevant Sections in the Information Memorandum Relating to the Warrants Offer

Exercise Period

Warrants may be exercised at any time from (and including) 26th March, 1998 to (and including) 24th March, 2003 (the "Exercise Period"), subject to any extension of the Exercise Period as may be approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Exercise Procedure

Warrants my only be exercised by the delivery of the appropriate Certificate(s) (if in certificated form) to the Warrant Agent together with a duly completed Exercise Notice form printed on the back of each Certificate or otherwise obtainable from the Registrar and payment of the Exercise Price.

On the exercise of a Warrant, the exercising Holder may, in the case of a sale of Shares pursuant to that exercise, elect to either pay the Exercise Price to the Warrant Agent (or as otherwise directed by the Warrant Agent) for payment to the Issuer or designate an Eligible Broker to pay the Exercise price on his behalf (and to deduct that amount from the sale proceeds). In the case of a delivery of Shares pursuant to the exercise of any Warrant, the exercising Holder shall pay the Exercise Price to the Warrant Agent (or as otherwise directed by the Warrant Agent) for payment to the Issuer.

Condition 13.3

In the event that less than 10% of the original number of Warrants issued are outstanding on the Business Day falling 40 days prior to the Expiry Date, Queenbee Resources Corporation shall be under no obligation to issue any new additional warrants provided that at least 30 days prior to notice of such event has been given to the Warrant Holders.

DISCLOSURES

CITYLAND Development Corp. has changed its address to 2/F Cityland Condominium 10 tower 1, 156 H.V. De la Costa St., Ayala North, Makati City 1226.

***

BALABAC Resources & Holdings Co. Inc. has moved its annual stockholders' meeting to Dec. 10, 2002.

Security . . .

From page B1

"Also, it will deepen our relationship with Security Bank and allow us to explore trust and deposit arrangements. Maybe their treasury department could act for the purchase of government securities for the group."

Security Bank said the agreement "capitalizes on (its) stability, extensive on-line branch network, dedication to intelligent use of technology and commitment to excellence together with Philamlife's diverse range of products and skills in life insurance, asset management, pensions, health insurance and general insurance."

Security Bank is a medium-sized private universal bank with a network of 118 on-line branches nationwide. The bank has total assets of more than P60 billion, capital funds of P9.4 billion, net loans of P31 billion, deposits of P39 billion and one of the lowest non-performing loan ratios in the industry. *Elena Torrijos*

CURRENCIES

Sept. 19, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.023018	1.000000	52.3360
Japan	Yen	0.008411	0.008222	0.4303
United Kingdom	Pound	1.585882	1.550200	81.1313
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131163	0.128212	6.7101
Switzerland	Franc	0.680606	0.665292	34.8187
Canada	Dollar	0.648218	0.633633	33.1618
Singapore	Dollar	0.576998	0.564016	29.5183
Australia	Dollar	0.561019	0.548396	28.7009
Bahrain	Dinar	2.713791	2.652731	138.8333
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272790	0.266652	13.9555
Brunei	Dollar	0.574826	0.561892	29.4072
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000111	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.023847	0.023310	1.2200
UAE	Dirham	0.278546	0.272279	14.2500
Korea	Won	0.000850	0.000831	0.0435
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.977500	51.1584
Argentina	Real	0.281823	0.275482	14.4176
Brazil	Real	0.306109	0.299222	15.6601
Denmark	Kroner	0.134576	0.131548	6.8847
India	Rupee	0.021167	0.020691	1.0829
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.269251	0.263193	13.7745
Mexico	New Peso	0.102199	0.099900	5.2284
New Zealand	Dollar	0.481330	0.470500	24.6241
Norway	Kroner	0.136190	0.133126	6.9673
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017309	0.016920	0.8855
South Africa	Rand	0.096895	0.094715	4.9570
Sweden	Kroner	0.109867	0.107395	5.6206
Syria	Pound	0.023145	0.022624	1.1840
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029575	0.028910	1.5130
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000708	0.000692	0.0362

Budget deficit swells . . .

From page B1

registered a higher collection of P9.21 billion in August against P8.786 billion last year and P7.864 billion the previous month.

Camacho said that Customs was aiming to generate about P8 billion in revenues a month starting July to meet its revised full-year target of P99.6 billion.

The BIR, which collects 80 percent of the government's cash requirement every year, must raise P422.5 billion this year. As of August, however, the internal revenue agency had only collected P253.13 billion against an end-September target of P330.84 billion.

Camacho stressed that spending would also narrow down in the coming months to help the government contain the deficit to a much lower number than the P170-P180 billion that analysts and economists were expecting for 2002.

'Not a den of thieves'

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

IN the field of Philippine labor-management relations, one of the most critical functions is the mandate to instill employee discipline and install an effective disciplinary action system that assures management prerogatives will be upheld and the employees' rights to security of tenure and due process will be respected. In the government, much noise has been made about shenanigans in the bureaucracy, corruption at all levels and grafts that are so endemic that, apart from the Civil Service Commission, we need to put up a constitutional guardian of the people's interests—the Ombudsman—and a special court—the Sandiganbayan.

Scalawags, however, continue to thrive. Even the courts are being charged of corruption. The notoriety has gone haywire that even the US ambassador cannot contain himself from commenting on such an internal affair.

The Chief Justice, in a fit of exasperation bordering perhaps on disillusionment, has declared that, even with a few bad eggs, the country's courts are really not a den of thieves.

Scoundrels in all nooks

It is amazing that if we ask any Filipino today, whether he is a man on the street or in corporate offices, we will get the same answer. Everybody knows there are crooks in practically all government offices. While the Chief Justice is correct that the great majority of government officials and employees are honest, competent and dedicated, we cannot close our eyes to a very critical few men and women who are eroding the peoples' faith in duly constituted authorities.

Each day, radio broadcasters, TV commentators and newspaper columnists hammer on specific issues of corruption, some in the form of blind items and others that are really named and identified. Yet, not too many are prosecuted and jailed. Big-time grafters can always buy their innocence, aided by topnotch lawyers and supported by millions of logistics.

Court's criticality

The Chief Justice has embarked on a relentless crusade to rid the courts of its few rascals in robes and even petty grafters below the position of the judge. Under the Davide watch of the courts, one Court of Appeals justice was dismissed for cause, with forfeiture of all benefits and with perpetual disqualification from holding any government appointive or elective office. Many judges and court staff were fired for offenses ranging from bribery to gross ignorance of the law.

Chief Justice Davide understands the criticality of courts in an era where the poor and the powerless still hunger for true and impartial justice. He feels the pulse of the people as he goes around the country and consults litigants and lawyers, judges and court personnel. He bewails undue delays, he condemns dishonesty, and he declares war against immorality, incompetence and plain stupidity.

Not just the courts

Other heads of offices need to emulate the Chief Justice. The justice secretary must have the same commitment relative to prosecutors, public attorneys, and NBI and immigration agents. The DILG chief should take a cue from President GMA herself, as he needs to shape up the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

The labor secretary and NLRC chair are doing their best to institute structural and behavioral reforms in DOLE, NLRC, BLR, POEA, Owwa and Tesda. It is easy to accuse certain arbiters or commissioners of some acts of negligence, but accusations without proofs are nothing. The DepEd and DPWH, the BIR and customs bureau should embark on a cleansing process to remove the stigma of corruption that burdens these agencies.

Few bad eggs

There is always a snake in every pit. Most are honest, yes, but even one or two scalawags can destroy the good name of the entire agency and, ultimately, the whole institution of government. Even the dishonesty of a clerk can be as corrosive as the big-time corruption of the head of office. A single act of indiscretion committed by an organization's weakest link can eliminate whatever is left of its credibility. Without credibility, no agency can make an impact on the lives of the people.

A few bad eggs in the judiciary or in the prosecution service, the police, the military or in administrative bodies performing quasi-judicial functions can take away the faith of the people. Without the people's faith, no nation can hope to survive, much less move on to prosper.

Reform or bust

The irony of the fight against graft is that those who are doing the corruption are the ones accusing the innocent because the clean are perceived as threats to the scalawags. Those who want to serve honestly are eliminated under false accusations because the system has become too polluted that it spontaneously rejects the pure. This is the greatest irony of all.

The entire government, therefore, is a snake pit where a few crusading souls, like Raul Roco, Rene Bañez and Lani Nañagas are not welcomed because they are like Don Quixotes threatening to slay the windmills of corruption that have become too endemic. The corrupt will always protect the system from being infiltrated by the innocent.

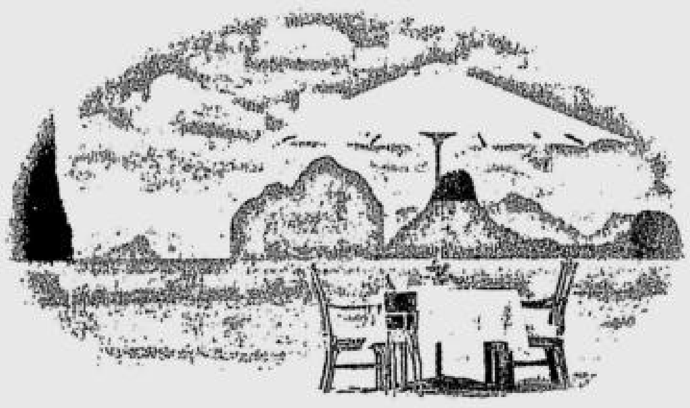
We know that the majority are honest, that GMA is honest. But a few rascals are putting the entire house down. The government is a very difficult place in which to remain good. Many patriotic young men and women have entered public service with all their idealism and passions to serve. But they are either corrupted by the system or they transfer to cleaner pastures.

Yes, the government is not a den of thieves, but the few good men there do not stand a chance. A breath of fresh air is easily eliminated inside a catacomb of stench and decay. *Sayang*.

It takes a whole nation

To reform the Philippine bureaucracy, it takes the whole nation to hold hands together and fight corruption in all levels of the government. The President cannot do it alone.

It is not enough that we criticize. We must all do something positive. And do it now.



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*Approved by DTI-NCR Permit No. 1677, Series of 2002

Research congress Oct. 2

THE MARKETING and Opinion Research Society of the Philippines (Mores) will be holding the Research Congress on Oct. 2 to 4 at Holiday Inn Resort Clark. This year, Mores is also celebrating its 25th Silver Anniversary. Marketing, advertising and research practitioners will attend the 3-day congress from the country's top companies, advertising and research agencies.

Theme for this year's congress is "Discover the Silver Lining". Envisioned to serve as the industry's fitting response to the current economic situation, the event will be highlighted by a series of insightful and relevant topics that have been carefully outlined to ensure a truly interactive discussion. Interesting topics include Using Market Intelligence to Carve New Niches; Routes to Reinvention and Sustained Growth; What Comes After Afta?; Philippines Fearless Forecasts; Learning from the Mistakes of the Past and What to Expect from the Future; The Philippine Social Climate, The State of Market and Opinion Research in the Philippines; A Legacy for the Future; Researchers' Core Values Revisited.

Among the invited distinguished speakers are professor Eduardo L. Roberto PhD of AIM and Coca-Cola Export and Florian A. Alburo Ph.D of the Center for Internet Studies, Institute for International Policy, University of Washington.

Roberto is the Coca-Cola Foundation professor in international marketing. He is on the Institute's research faculty and was formally a core faculty member of the Master in Business Management Program. His teaching and research areas of interest include basic marketing, marketing research, social marketing research, and consumer behavior. He has also taught at the Northwestern University's Kellog Graduate School of Management and at the Euro-Asia Centre of Insead.

He is currently the chair and president of Roberto and Associates Inc., a marketing research and consulting agency, and sits on the board of directors of several corporations. He is on the editorial board of the international Journal of Research in Marketing. He was the 1985 president and the recipient of the Philippine Marketing Association Agora for Achievement in Marketing Education in 1983. He has authored seven research books that had greatly contributed to the field of marketing research and marketing profession.

Alburo is also a professor of economics, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. He is the Asia program director of the International Center for Economic Growth in San Francisco, California and member of the advisory committee of the Asean Economic Research Unit of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. He was recently the consultant and team leader of the Asia Recovery Information Center of the Asian Development Bank, managing its multi-awarded web site.

Other invited speakers are Gigi Rodriguez (Pana), Marivic Anonuevo (PMA), Darrah Estrada (TNS), Nony Niles (AC Nielsen), James Amatasivadhana (Coke Export), Dr. Mahar Mangahas (SWS), Ambeth Ocampo, Angelito Pangilinan (4As), Dante Canlas, RJ Esteban (PSRC-RI), Detdet Altabas (J&J) and the Research Congress chair himself, Alden Castaneda (ABS-CBN).

The event will be sponsored by ABS-CBN, Taylor Nelson Sofres, NFO-Trends, AC Nielsen, San Miguel Corp., PSRC-RI and Nestle Philippines.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

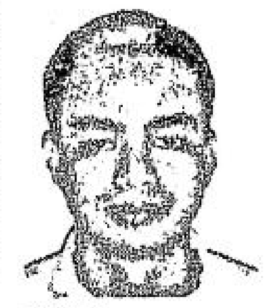
Date: September 16, 2002

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payments under contract for rural infrastructure component for which this invitation is issued.
2. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of **San Remigio, Antique**, as implementing partner of DAR for ARCP, invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if eligible, to bid for the **Sub-Project: Construction of Nagbangi I-Agricula Farm to Market Road with RCDG Bridge — (2.88 Km.) — (Package II).**
3. Eligibility statement forms and bidding documents may be secured by interested bidders on **September 23-27, 2002** at the Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC) upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Ten Thousand Pesos Only (Php 10,000.00)** per set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for eligibility must be received in sealed envelopes on or before **October 2, 2002 at 3:00 PM** addressed to: **The Chairman, Bid and Award Committee**, Municipality of **San Remigio, Antique.**
5. A Pre-Bid conference shall be held on **October 11, 2002 at 9:00 AM.** Office of the Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC).
6. The submission and opening of bids will be on **October 25, 2002 at 10:00 AM.** Late bids will not be accepted. The bid shall be accompanied by a GSIS bid security of **2-1/2% of the approved budget** or its equivalent and to be posted in favor of the LGU. The bid security shall be valid for 120 days.
7. The approved budget for this project is **Nine Million Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Two and 95/100 Pesos Only (Php 9,560,482.95).** Only Contractors/Bidders classified as **Medium Sub-Category "A"** by the CIAP with appropriate classification are the subjects of this invitation.
8. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Government. The provision of PD1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended August 2000, shall apply to this invitation.

(Sgd.) ELIZABETH C. COLOSO
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee

PDI - SEPT. 20, 23, 25, 2002

BAUTISTA



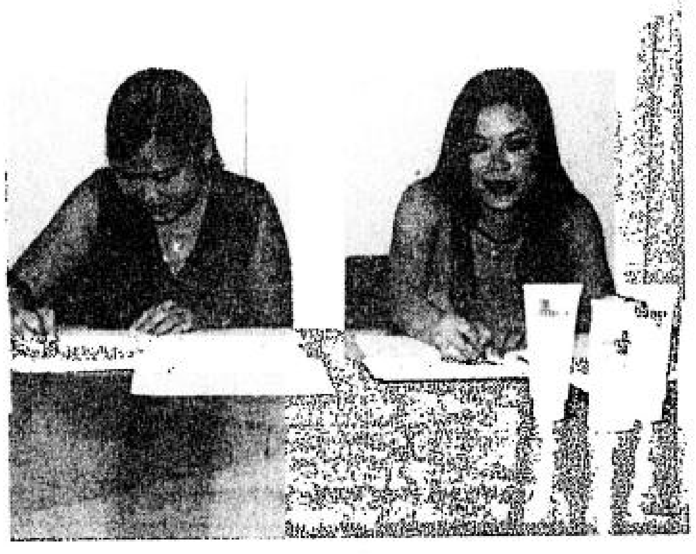
RIVERA

FRESH FACES AT PFCI

Fresh faces make up the service department of Philippine Forklift Center Inc., the exclusive distributor of Toyota materials handling equipment in the country. Ma. Rita R. Calanoc, president of PFCI, announced the appointment of Anthony James R. Bautista as service station manager, bringing with his expertise in sales and marketing, having had worked with Roche Philippines for several years. Manuel S. Rivera Jr., a mechanical engineer from Mapua Institute of Technology who passed the 1999 Board Exam as one of the topnotchers, was appointed service station assistant manager to take charge of quality assurance and technical services and training.

PAMPANGA HIGH SCHOOL MISSION

Pampanga High School Class 65 Foundation, in cooperation with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, held a medical and dental mission for seven barangays of San Fernando City. Shown with PCSO GM and vice chair Ver Angelo are the officers and members of the Class 65 Foundation—lawyer Jess Caguiat, Marcial Morales, Eloisa Valerio, Editha Reyes, chair Rene Alarcon and Erlie Estandarte.



PANTENE PARTNERS WITH VENICE JEWELLERS

Pantene Pro-V Shampoo with Conditioner and Venice Jewellers has entered into a partnership for the Pantene Shine diamond raffle promo, which will run from August to October 2002. Pantene picked Venice Jewellers as the official provider of jewelries to be given away by Pantene to promote the product's promise of providing smooth and shiny, healthy hair—just like diamonds. Signing the agreement are Procter & Gamble (P&G) assistant brand manager Romana Chuacaedo (left) and Venice Jewellers general manager Judy So.

BITS & Clips

2nd Egg Show opens

THE NATIONAL Federation of Egg Producers of the Philippines (NFEPP), an organization of egg farmers, reported that the Philippines ranks number 20 in Asia in terms of per capita consumption of eggs. With this realization of the untapped potential market, NFEPP's Second Egg Show opens today, Sept. 20, and runs until Sept. 22 at the Megatrade Halls 2 and 3 of the SM Megamall. Seminars will be held during the trade show, dwelling on topics such as maximizing the potential of available ingredients for improved layer profitability, and effective egg marketing and increasing egg production. There will also be a mini-zoo which features various types of eggs, a bazaar, and live animals such as ostrich, quails and ducks on display. For more details, call Premier Events Plus Group Inc. at 434-4711 to 12 or 929-7963 or 93, or visit www.PEPGroup.com.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL, SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA)
Asiatrust Bank Building, 1424 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 1104

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bidding Date : October 18, 2002
Pre-Bid Conference : October 9, 2002
(2:00 p.m. at the WFFC Conference Room)

a. PFN for SCR Unit
MAGNETRON CURRENT METER: Current meter, coil for mag current circuit, capacitor for current circuit
CONNECTOR J1 (1 set): HVPS-J1 receptacle, HVPS P1 (plug)
SERVO MOTOR CONTROL UNIT: AZ Servo Unit, E1 Servo Unit
b. Laptop Intel Pentium
c. Personal Computer
d. Mercurial Barometer (Fortin Type)
e. Automatic Raingauge (with event recorder)

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above using the TWO-ENVELOPE SYSTEM to be opened publicly at the Conference Room of the Weather & Flood Forecasting Center (WFFC), PAGASA, Agham/BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid requirements will be issued at the PAGASA Records Management Section (RMS), Fourth Floor, ATB Building, 1424 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, together with the company's TIN on **September 26, 2002.**

Bidding documents will be issued by the BAC Secretariat from **October 7 to 9, 2002** at the RMS to those parties who applied and considered eligible to participate in the bidding.

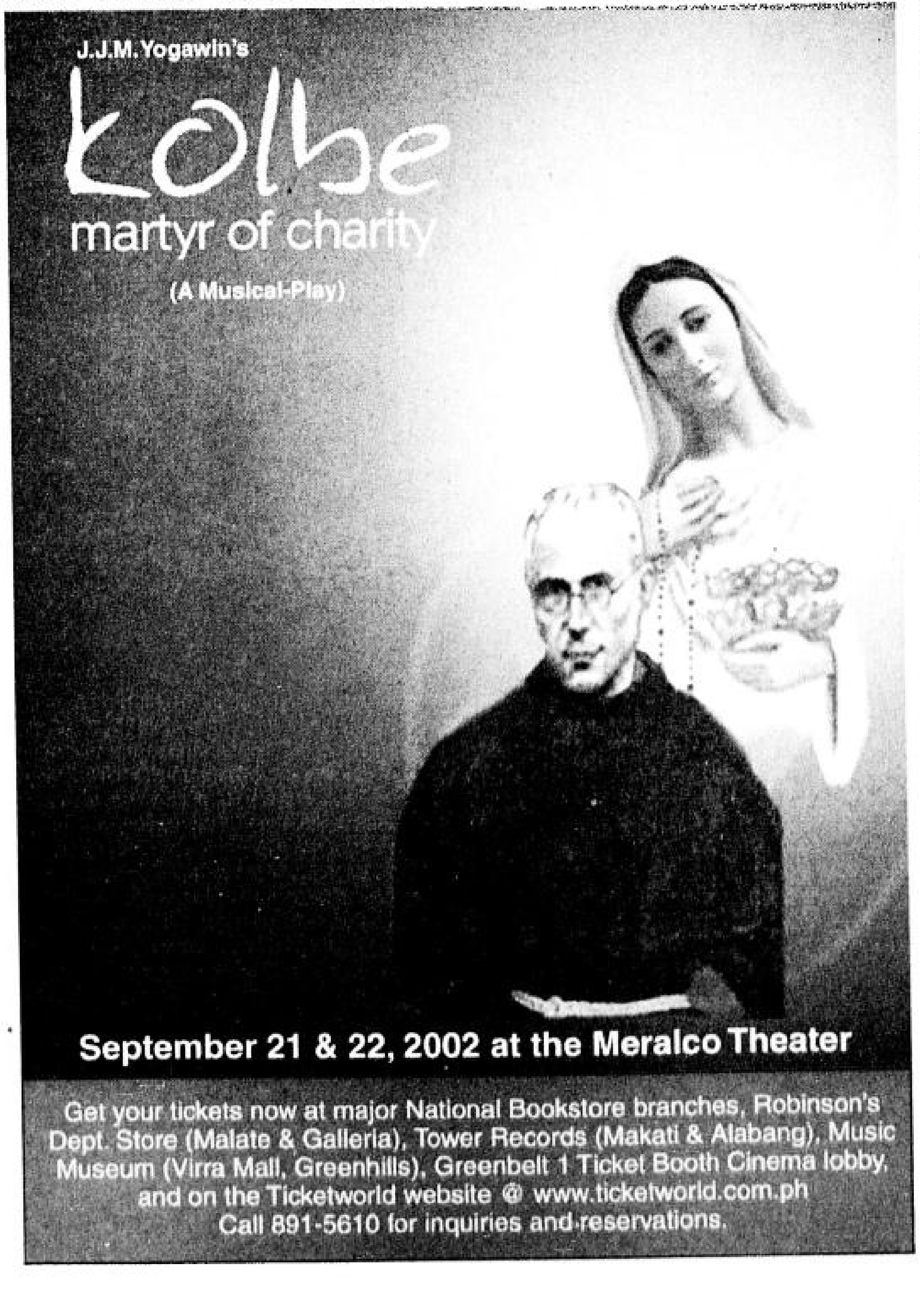
Only eligible bidders shall be invited to the Opening of Bids on **October 18, 2002** at 2:00 p.m. at the WFFC Conference Room, PAGASA Building, Agham/BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids should be accompanied by a 2.5% Bidder's Bond in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or GSIS bond, callable on demand within 120 days from the bidding date.

All inquiries concerning this invitation to bid should be addressed to the Chairman, PAGASA BAC.

The PAGASA reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason of its own, waive any formality therein when necessary, and to accept complying offer considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) BERNARDO M. SORIANO, JR.
Chairman, BAC

(PDI -- Sept. 20, 2002)



DON'T MISS THE RELIGIOUS THEATER EVENT OF 2002!
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September 21 & 22, 2002 at the Meralco Theater
Get your tickets now at major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Dept. Store (Malate & Galleria), Tower Records (Makati & Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills), Greenbelt 1 Ticket Booth Cinema lobby, and on the Ticketworld website @ www.ticketworld.com.ph
Call 891-5610 for inquiries and reservations.

SM Baby sale's big values

GREAT selections and big savings await shoppers at SM's Baby Company—the store with the widest selection of baby needs, including feeding essentials, disposable diapers, crib linen, personal care products, apparel, nursery furniture, carriers and strollers, gift sets and toys. The month-long promo, which ends Sept. 30, invites shoppers to avail themselves of discounts (50-percent off on selected items), special offers (buy one/take one), bonuses (free gifts with purchase of selected items), and a raffle that gives shoppers a chance to win one of 30 Little Tikes Baby's First Dream House or Dream Car with every P300 purchase at Baby Company. The raffle is sponsored by Little Tikes. Raffle prizes are kid-safe and parent-endorsed. Baby's First Dream House is a patio playhouse that has one wall swinging out to double as the play area. The set includes a cozy table for two with built-in doll seats. The Little Tikes Dream Car is an updated version of the classic kid-powered car. The raffle promo is the first ever by the Baby Company.

Moon Cake season at Tower Club

THE TOWER Club, the country's premier, by-invitation-only business and social club, is celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival with specially prepared, authentic moon cakes. The Mid-Autumn Festival is held on the 15th day of the eighth Lunar month (September). On this holiday, families observe the end of the harvest season with a big feast, where they serve and give moon cakes. The moon symbolizes beauty and elegance. The creamy, delicious cakes are available at The Taipan restaurant daily or for advance orders until Sept. 21. Members of the Tower Club may call 885-7085 for dining reservations or fax 885-7091 to place orders for moon cakes.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2002

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QUEZON CITY

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L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

Bnew Starex MB100 9483535

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

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2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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NOW HIRING!
10 PROMO GIRLS
SALESLADIES
high school grad., w/ exp., single 5'2ht, 19-24yrs old
OFFICE CLERK
coll grad, w/exp, single, not over 30 years old, willing to undergo training. Call Hanna 712-0471/711-9636 9am-6pm

MALE/FEMALE

•DIR HIRE OFC STAF 18-45 YO 9134470 MS. CORPUZ

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

★Ofc Staff 18-45 w/w/o exp★ Start ASAP 9134470 MARS

★Office Personnel★
18-45 w/w/o exp Start ASAP Direct Hiring 421-6507 VINA

HRD STF 09194639391 IRIS

★URGENT OFC STAF 18-45★ W/WO EXP 9121486 PEACHY

OFC PR 09192505572 JEHAN

OFC STAFF 09197553279 Persch

Ofc Staff 18 45 Yo w/ w/o Exp. 0917-9438322 Wendel

OFC STF 09195249458 JOAN

OFC STF 5512388 MS. ELLA

OFC STF ALEX 09174925306

OFCSTF 09202545872 REXIE

OFCSTF MS. LG 09164863695

Travel Assistant 8216148/8214761

Upcoming Rest. in N.Greenhills is in need of a Gen. Mgr. College Graduate w/ 2-3yrs. exp. Drop resume w/pic.ID at 214 Villalobos St. Quiapo Mla. Mon-Sat 9-5

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

ATTN: BUYER & DEALER OF COPIER, NEW ARRIVAL FROM U.S., ASSORTED BRAND & MODEL, WHOLESALE PRICE 7348511, 4936819 EDWIN

Bazaar-TIANGGE Forbes Park Call 7137030-7137231

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PIOQUINTO AMBROSIO VILLARUZ was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Notary Public Atty. Carlito P. Egana of Makati City, under Doc. No. 210 Page No. 43, Book No. VII; Series of 2002
(PDI-Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

URBAN BANK Certificate#7717 - 60 shrs under the name of TOMAS GO was declared lost. If no contest is received w/in 1 yr new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 2002)

SANYO DENKI PHILIPPINES, INC.
Blk. F-1 Subic Techno Park Building
Along Argonaut Hi-way Boton Area
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Is in need of **one (1) Production Eng'g. Dept. Manager** with the following qualifications: Graduate of Mechanical Eng'g. Course; has special training in an industrial Robot Course; knowledge in production engineering machineries/equipment for fan system, servo motor and uninterrupted power system including maintenance and repair of said machineries and equipment. Have at least a minimum of three years exposure/hands on experience in a manufacturing concern specially in the operation and production of fan motors, servo system and uninterrupted power system. Can read, speak and write NIHONGGO; at least 35-45 years old.

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with 2 X 2 recent photo and credentials to:

Labor and Employment Center
Bldg. 255 Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
Makati Avenue, Makati City

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Twelve (12) pads UCPB Official Receipt (UCPB Form # 0-3609) bearing Serial Nos. A-2041501 - 2042100.

The above missing Official Receipts, intended for **UCPB New Manila Branch** and in the custody of the courier **JLI Transport System** at the time of loss, has been cancelled and invalidated and payments purportedly covered by it shall be dishonored.

UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK

(SGD.) TERESITA V. RIVERA
AVP - CSD

(PDI--Sept. 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 2002)

NOTICE OF MERGER

The public is hereby notified that the respective stockholders of **Elegant Star Construction Corporation, CD Molave Home Builders Corporation and Lexber Construction Corporation** have approved the Consolidation and Merger of the said companies, Lexber Construction Corp. being the surviving and absorbing corporation.

For more information: Kindly visit their offices at #63 Panay Avenue, Quezon City, or call 4108367 up to 69.

(PDI--Sept. 20, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Stock Certificate No. 5 issued to Domingo S. Guevara, Jr., Stock Certificate No. 6 issued to Herbert Sy and Stock Certificate No. 11 issued to Melchor C. Orosa consisting of one (1) share of stock each of Autoliv QB, Inc.

Should there be anyone who is in possession of or who would like to contest Stock Certificate Nos. 5, 6 and 11, please inform the Corporate Secretary of Autoliv QB, Inc. of said possession or contest within one (1) year after the last publication of this notice at the following address:

Atty. Celso L. Cruz
6th Floor Citibank Center
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

After the period of one (1) year from the last publication of this notice, the right to contest Stock Certificate Nos. 5, 6 and 11 shall be barred and new stock certificates shall be issued in lieu thereof.

(PDI-Sept. 13, 20 & 27, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is given of the loss of Immigration Certificate of Residence no. 12696 issued to Ang Min Kay Chinese by the Bureau of Immigration on July 20, 1946.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW P28.00 Up 727-4934

WEEK END MARKET
AT ROXAS BLVD.
Phil Trade Ctr cor Buendia
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Opens Nov. 9
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Priority Listing now going on!
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722-1155

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By a Leading Petroleum Equipment Distributor

A. ENGINEERS (ME, EE)

Qualifications:

1. Recent course graduate
2. Above average academic grades
3. One year experience preferred but not necessary
4. Willing to undergo training

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Qualifications:

- Knowledge and experience in the following
1. Windows NT Operating System
2. Computer Data Communication Interface
- Willing to undergo training

Attractive compensation package and opportunity for foreign Training await the successful applicants.

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IN OVER 400 LOTS INCLUDING: -

VEHICLES - HYUNDAI SONATA GLSI All Power; TOYOTA Master Ace Surf Van; NISSAN Diesel Dropside Truck; NISSAN Cabstar Pick-up Truck; YAMAHA Special 400cc Motor Bike; HONDA LEAD 50cc Scooter; HONDA PAL Scooter

CONSTRUCTION/MATERIALS HANDLING - MITSUBISHI BD2G Mini Dozer; HYSTER 1.5 Ton Cap Forklift

MACHINE SHOP EQUIPMENT - RIBON RUR 500 Grinder Machine; DEAN SMITH GRACE Type 17T Lathe Machine, PARKSON Milling Machine; MILWAUKEE 205 C-12 Milling Machine; CONCORD 480 Lathe Machine, MATSUDA Plastic Injection Mould Machine; BRIDGEPORT Milling Machine; TOKICO TM170 Lathe Machine, TSL-650 Lathe Machine; UCHIDA Shaper Machine, etc

AUTOMOTIVE SPARES - Filter Elements; Bearings; Machine Block; Pistons; Equalizers; Signal Lights; Ball Joints; Clutch Disc Pads; Tire Rims; Tires; Fan Belts, etc.

MECHANICAL SPARES - Proximity Flag Switches; Hub Clamps; Wheel Chains; Sprockets; Asstd. Shafts; Air Cylinders; Conveyor Belts; Pneumatic Linear Drives, Bushing, etc.

HAND TOOLS - Hydraulic Floor Jacks; Electric Screw Drivers; Angle Grinders; Cable Pulleys; Saw Set Pliers, Spatulas; Try Squares; Pliers; Wrench Set

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT - Aneroid Sphygmomanometer; Hectometer Sets; Disposable Surgical Staplers, Clamp Scissors; Gauze Swabs; Disposable Sump Pump; Urostomy Bags; Silicon Catheters, Disposable Syringes, etc

FASTFOOD RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT - Stainless Breading Tables; Pastry Display Counters, Soup Rethermalizers, Chillers, Juice Dispensers; Stainless Work Stations; Glass Trays, Tongs, Stainless Bins, Stainless Pots; Coffee Maker Machine, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS - Generator Sets, Robin Engines, Television Sets; Refrigerators; Audio/Video Equipment; Lockers, Pedestals, Air Conditioners, Chemicals; Kettle, Pebbles; etc

AT: HENRY BUTCHER AUCTION CENTER
BLDG. 7 VRCC ROAD, VETERANS, CENTRE, TAGUIG
ON: TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2002- 10:30AM PROMPT
ON VIEW: MONDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2002,
9:00AM - 6:00PM & MORNING OF SALE DAY
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php20,000.00 (Upon Registration)

HENRY BUTCHER

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILS. INC.
102 Ground Floor, Jollliand Bldg., 670 EDSA, Pasay City
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E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
www.henrybutcher.com

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
MANILA

INVITATION TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of various office supplies to:

A) Branches and Offices of the Clerks of Court of the Regional Trial Courts and Metropolitan Trial Court in the National Capital Judicial Region;

B) Branches and Offices of the Clerks of Court of the Regional Trial Court, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, Municipal Circuit Trial Courts, Shari'a District Courts and Shari'a Circuit Courts in the different provinces and cities in the country;

with an approved total budget of Forty Three Million Four Hundred Fifty Four Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Two Pesos (P43,454,682.00), Five Million Nine Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Sixteen Pesos (P5,935,916.00) for the NCJR and Thirty Seven Million Five Hundred Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Six Pesos (P37,518,766.00) for the different provinces and cities, chargeable against the current appropriations of the lower courts for supplies and materials.

Bids of the pre-qualified bidders will be received by the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Taft Avenue, Manila before 2:00 p.m. on **October 16, 2002**. All said time and date, sealed quotations submitted will be opened publicly by the Committee on Bids in the presence of the participating bidders and/or representatives at the **4th Floor Multi-Purpose Bldg., Supreme Court.**

Interested suppliers/dealers may obtain the necessary pre-qualification requirements from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Office of the Administrative Services, Supreme Court, which should be submitted on **October 9, 2002** at 2:00 p.m., **4th Floor, Multi-Purpose Bldg.** A Pre-bid conference of qualified bidders will be held on **October 11, 2002** at the same time and place. Only bids of pre-qualified bidders will be entertained at the time of bidding.

Proposal forms, Terms and Conditions and list of office supplies subject of this particular bidding will be furnished to pre-qualified bidders, after payment of non-refundable P200.00.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

This invitation supersedes the invitation published on September 4 and 5, 2002.

September 19, 2002.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairperson
Committee on Bids

(PDI - Sept. 20, 2002)

A manufacturing and distribution company of international established brands of consumer goods requires a

MARKETING MANAGER

- Male, not more than 40 years old
- Preferably college or university graduate
- At least 5 years experience in handling of consumer products
- Able and experienced to conceptualize, develop and implement effective marketing plans and strategies
- With excellent communication and team working skills

All interested applicants please send your application letters and resume by e-mail to eup@pacific.net.ph or fax to 843-8177. You can contact us at 889-1363 and look for Ms. Lhyn Paule.

SALES ENGINEERS

for Solahart Solar Water Heater

A graduate of any Engineering course. Male or Female, not more than 30 years old. Candidate must possess the right attitude, bold enough to accept challenges, capable of marketing the business. Must demonstrate flexibility to work among diverse corporate environments. Preferably with experience in sales of construction materials or related products.

Interested applicants may apply personally or send their Comprehensive Resumé, Transcript of Records & (2) 2x2 ID picture and look for Ms. Laarni G. Castañeda at:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
SOLANDA ENTERPRISES, INC.
Anda cor. Magallanes Sts., Intramuros Manila
(near Manila Cathedral)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 920-0219; 928-8505 loc. 141 & 142

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) invites contractors classified and registered with the IAC on Registration and Classification of Contractor's to apply for Eligibility and to propose for the Re-bidding of the Renovation/upgrading of UPLB-Institute of Plant Breeding R & D Facilities for Varietal Improvement (Phase I):

Package I. Renovation and upgrading of the UPLB-IPB Specialized Laboratory Building and Seminar Room:
Package II. Extension/Expansion of the IPB Specialized Laboratory Building and Construction of a Generator House

Contractor Classification: Medium A for building with Electrical Specialty and with PCAB license
Cost of Bid Document: P 2,500
Deadline for Submission of Letter of Intent: Oct. 4, 2002 at 5:00 PM

The proposed work to be undertaken shall include the furnishing of Labor, Materials and Equipment necessary to complete the project.

Contractors may obtain the Eligibility Statement Form and Bid Document from DA-BAR after presentation of Letter of Intent and Letter of Authority if filed by Firm's agent, together with the original of the approved renewal of PCAB License and IAC Registration and Classification and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 2,500.00.

Attention is invited to interested Bidders on the Pre-bidding schedule to be undertaken at the BAC Conference Room located at 2nd Flr. ATI, Q.C.

1. *Pre-Bid Conference .... October 8, 2002 at 2:00 PM*
2. *Deadline of Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Forms .... October 9, 2002 (up to 5 PM)*
3. *Deadline for Submission of Bids .... October 23, 2002 (up to 1 pm)*
4. *Opening of Bids .... October 23, 2002 (2 pm)*

Submission, opening, and Abstracting of Bid Submit in three (3) envelopes with the name of the project to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters addressed to the BAC. For particulars, please contact: Mr. Rolando V. Labios or Mr. Angel S. Morcozo, Jr. at Tel. No. 920-0219 or 928-8505 loc. 141 & 142.

All particulars relative to the Pre-qualification, Bid Bond, Bank Statement/Deposit, Performance Bond, Bid Evaluation and award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other relevant laws and rules.

The Bureau reserves the right to reject any or all of the bids and waive any informality in the bid proposals received or to accept such as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ELISEO R. PONCE**
Director

(PDI--Sept. 20 & 27, 2002)

Trans Co

National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: September 2, 2002
Loan No.: 1590 PHI
Contract No.: Sp02.CBTL.Lm-0341

1. The National Power Corporation (NPC) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Power Transmission Reinforcement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Furnishing and Delivery of Transmission Line Materials & Construction of Calamba Tower No. 50 - Biñan 230 kV Steel Pole Double Circuit Transmission Line on Turn-Key Basis. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of the Asian Development Bank.
2. NPC invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Furnishing and Delivery of Transmission Line Materials & Construction of Calamba Tower No. 50 - Biñan 230kV Steel Pole Double Circuit Transmission Line of Turn-Key Basis.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents starting September 18, 2002 at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Office of the Manager
Bids and Contracts Management Department
2nd Floor, Building 2, NPC - OBC
National Power Corporation
BIR Road corner Quezon Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code: 1104)
Philippines
TeleFax: (632) 921-23-08

4. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders or authorized representative upon submission of a letter of intent to the above address (Clause No. 3) and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ten thousand (PhP 10,000.00) Philippine Pesos or two hundred US Dollars (US$ 200.00) per set.

In case of foreign firm / company, acquisition of bidding documents can be made by remitting the equivalent amount in US Dollars Two hundred Twenty (US$ 220.00) to:

Bank of New York, New York for credit to Account No. 8033281243
Of Philippine National Bank, Head Office, Manila Philippines and for
Further credit to Account No. 249-701218-2 of National Power Corporation (NPC) with
Philippine National Bank, NPC Branch BIR Road Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

A copy of remittance instruction/cable must be submitted to NPC together with the written application to the above address and must specify the name of person and designation with complete address where documents will be forwarded.

5. A two stage two envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals are opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive will be rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals which have been submitted by qualified bidders will be discussed with the bidders and bidders will be required to adjust their proposals to reflect the changes and amendments requested by the Employer to conform with the requirements, and intent of the technical specifications. The bidders are further requested to submit a supplementary price proposal which contains the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal will be opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of two hundred seventy thousand (US$ 270,000.00) or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to above office address on or before January 6, 2003 at 1:30 PM. The bid security must be included with the technical proposal.
7. The technical proposals will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals and supplementary price proposals, if provided, will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the ADB of the evaluation of the technical proposals.

2002 CONTRACTS AWARD COMMITTEE

By: **ROLANDO T. BACANI**
Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 20, 25 & 30, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the general public that a warrant of arrest has been issued by the Regional Trial Court of Batangas, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 13, Lipa City, against

ROWENA PALICPIC ESTRELLANES

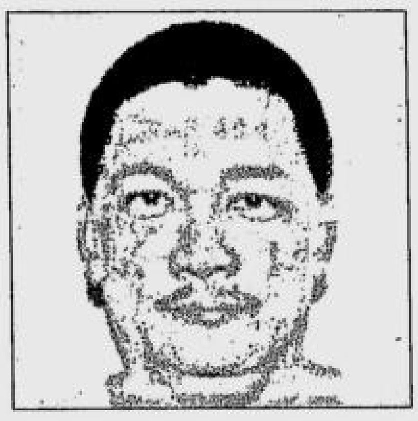
of Barangay San Lucas, Lipa City Batangas for malversation under Article 217 of the Revised Penal Code, under Criminal Case No. 0152-2000.

Any information leading to her immediate arrest may be reported to the management of Metro Lipa Water District, Lipa City Batangas with tel. nos. (043) 756-1670, 756-1611, 756-1118, 756-3450, 756-6972.

A reward of P100,000.00 awaits anybody who could give a reliable information that would lead to the immediate and successful arrest of the aforementioned person.

(PDI--Sept. 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 & 22, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



SISENANDO M. POLITAN
(a.k.a.) ARCHIE M. POLINTAN

A WARRANT OF ARREST has been issued against **SISENANDO M. POLITAN** (a.k.a.) as **ARCHIE M. POLINTAN** whose picture appears hereinabove for conviction of violation of BP Blg. 22 in Criminal Cases No. Q-93-46199 to 46200 before Branch 224, RTC Quezon City. A reward is hereby offered to any person who may have information as to his whereabouts which would lead to his arrest.

You may contact Cellphone 0917-9106738 or 0917-5345201.

(PDI – Sept. 20, 2002)

PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNPC COMPLEX, MERRITT ROAD,
FORT BONIFACIO, MAKATI CITY
Tel. No. 893-1320 loc. 5282

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. PNOC—Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) has received an ODA loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as JBIC), in the amount of 14,460,000,000.00 Yen towards the cost of the No. Negros Geothermal Power Projects and intends to apply the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY** of the following:
   - **I. FGC-22601/22602/22603 - Various sizes of SAW/ERW & Seamless Pipe**
   - **II. FGC-22607 - Various Sizes of Weldneck Flanges**
   - **III. FGC-22625 - 6 pcs. of Safety Relief Valve, 8" O (300#) x10" O (150#)**
   - **IV. FGC-22628 - 5 assemblies each of 2500 kg/150 mm and 3000 kg/100 mm of Spring Hangers, Constant Effort.**
   - **V. FGC-22615 - Various sizes of Gate Valves, CS.**
   - **VI. FGC-22617 - Various sizes of Through-Conduit Gate Valves, CS.**

Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans." No party other than PNOC-EDC shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, PNOC-EDC will take appropriate measures for finance.

2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as PNOC-EDC, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC;
   - a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   - b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded by JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practice in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. PNOC-EDC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries for the supply of the Goods for the purpose of the Project.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Purchasing Division c/o Mr. Edilberto C. Alejandro, Jr. & Mr. Raffy S. Teylan, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, PNPC Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Tel No. (632) 893-1320 Loc. 5282, Fax No. (632) 840-1834.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be secured by any interested eligible bidder starting **August 26, 2002**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of one hundred pesos (**PHP100.00**) **Philippine Currency.**
6. For purposes of clarifying matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on the following dates at 2:00 p.m. at the above address
   - **I. September 6, 2002**
   - **II. September 9, 2002**
   - **III. September 12, 2002**
   - **IV. September 13, 2002**
   - **V. September 18, 2002**
   - **VI. September 20, 2002**
7. The estimated date of award is on **December 15, 2002.**
8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount indicated in the tender documents, and in the form of acceptable to PNOC-EDC. The bids must be delivered to the above address on or before 2:00 **P.M. of the following dates:**
   - **I. October 11, 2002**
   - **II. October 15, 2002**
   - **III. October 1, 2002**
   - **IV. October 9, 2002**
   - **V. October 16, 2002**
   - **VI. October 17, 2002**

Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

9. PNOC-EDC will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
10. PNOC-EDC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) Sergio Antonio F. Apostol
Chairman/President/C.E.O

(PDI-Sept. 20, 2002)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Comfort

Comfort is a classic example of how words can change meanings with time. It was born out of the intensive Latin prefix *com*-('together') and *fortis* ('strong'). Originally these elements combined to form the Latin *comfortare*, meaning 'to strengthen.' This sense survived for centuries, even to the 13th century when the word, both as a noun and as a verb, was adopted by the English language. But between the 18th and 19th centuries, a new meaning of *comfort* evolved, for which there is no explanation. Its sense became 'ease' (verb, to 'soothe''; noun, ''relief.''), its present-day meaning.

For the Record. The public sign for comfort room or toilet in certain countries: *W.C.* (France); *Toilette* (Germany); *Gabinetto* (Italy); *Excusado* (Spain); *Toalett* (Sweden).

First of All. The *Victoria*, the only survivor of Ferdinand Magellan's fleet of five ships that set sail from Sañ Lucar, Spain, seeking a westward passage to the Indies, arrived in Seville on September 6, 1522, to consummate the first circumnavigation of the world. Commanded by Sebastian del Cano, the battered ship with only 15 crewmen (other accounts put the number at 18) left alive completed its journey nearly three years after its departure. The world had been proved round, and its true size was now known.

WORD WATCH

Pasada: :Tagalog slang for 'work,' esp. driving a passenger vehicle, from the Spanish *pasada*, ''manner of doing something briefly; passage.''

(PDI - SEPT. 20, 2002)

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"I am the Resurrection and the Life,
he that believes in Me, though he were dead,
yet shall he live." (John 11:25)

FR. MATTHIAS NING, SVD

of Mun Ying, Shantung, China

passed away to join his Creator
on 16 September 2002 at Villa Cristo Rey,
Christ the King Seminary, Quezon City,
at the age of 81, with 30 years of religious life.

The Funeral Mass will be held at the Christ the
King Seminary Chapel, Quezon City, on
Monday, 23 September 2002, at 3:00 PM.
Interment will follow.

CONSORCIO L. PADOLINA

May 12, 1937 – September 17, 2002

*Joined his Creator on September 17, 2002
at the age of 65.*

His wife **Teodora**; children **Teresa, Riza, Mike & Bambi** and **Rachel & Allan**; grandchildren **TJ, Kat, Miggy, Rapha, Gabby, Martin, Isabel** and **Bea**, request the pious readers to pray for his eternal journey with the Lord.

His remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (Claret Church), Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 22, 2002 at Himlayang Pilipino after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

The OFFICERS and STAFF of the
MANILA RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CORP.
announce with deep sorrow the demise
of their founding chairman

AMBASSADOR ABRAHAM ABUBAKAR RASUL, al haj

on September 18, 2002, at the age of 80.

His remains lie in state at his family residence at 155 Lopez Rizal Street, Mandaluyong City, until Friday, September 20, when they will be flown to Jolo, Sulu, his hometown, where interment will take place on Saturday, September 21.

He is survived by his wife, former **Senator Santanina T. Rasul** and children **Amina Zalmia** and husband **Romeo Bernardo**, **Fatimah Irene**, **Amroussi** and wife **Cecile Ann**, **Abraham Jr.** and wife **Maria Cecille**, **Yousuf** and wife **Emily**, and **Salma Pir Rasul**.

We request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul. In lieu of flowers, the bereaved family would dearly appreciate donations to the KASANNANGAN FOUNDATION.

Antonia "Peggy" Reyes-Laurel, DMD

of Boac, Marinduque and San Juan, Metro Manila

*Peacefully joined her Creator on September 18, 2002
at the age of 74.*

Her loving husband **Rafael Sosa Laurel**; children **Robert** and **Reggie Hernandez Laurel**, **Rafael Jr.**, **Dr. Edgardo** and **Dra. Nenentte Perez-Laurel**, **Victoria** and **Calvin Fong**, **Maria Asunction** (†), and **Andrew**; grandchildren **Peggy Ann**, **Ira**, **A.R.**, **Rupert**, **Antoinette**, **Lorenz**, **Justin**, **Miko**, **Samantha**, and **Sarah**; brothers and sisters, brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces request family and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City up to Friday midnight and will be brought to Boac, Marinduque on September 21, 2002.

Interment will be on September 22, 2002 at the Laurel Mausoleum, Catholic Cemetery of Boac, Marinduque, after the 8:00 a.m. Requiem Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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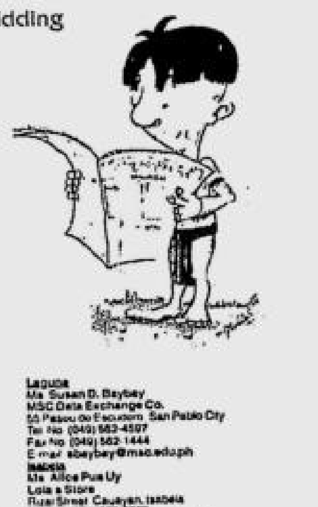

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SECURITY BANK CORPORATION is the first bank in the Philippines to use PLDT DSL technology, and not just as a vital research and communication tool. It was the first one to make it an integral component of a fully internet-based corporate cash management facility—the **Security DigiBanker**. This convenience allows both local and off-shore clients to transfer funds, collect payments, and process payrolls and checks—all with just a few mouse clicks.

With the complex and mission-critical nature of corporate banking transactions, it is crucial that the Security DigiBanker be able to deliver at lightning speed with round-the-clock system availability.

Manny Narciso and Daniel Yu, First Vice Presidents—the men behind Security DigiBanker and the bank's resident visionaries, considered it imperative that they find the fastest, most reliable, most accessible data communications solution on the Web, and that is PLDT DSL.

Mr. Yu states, "We knew that DSL is the right direction to go, given our requirements."

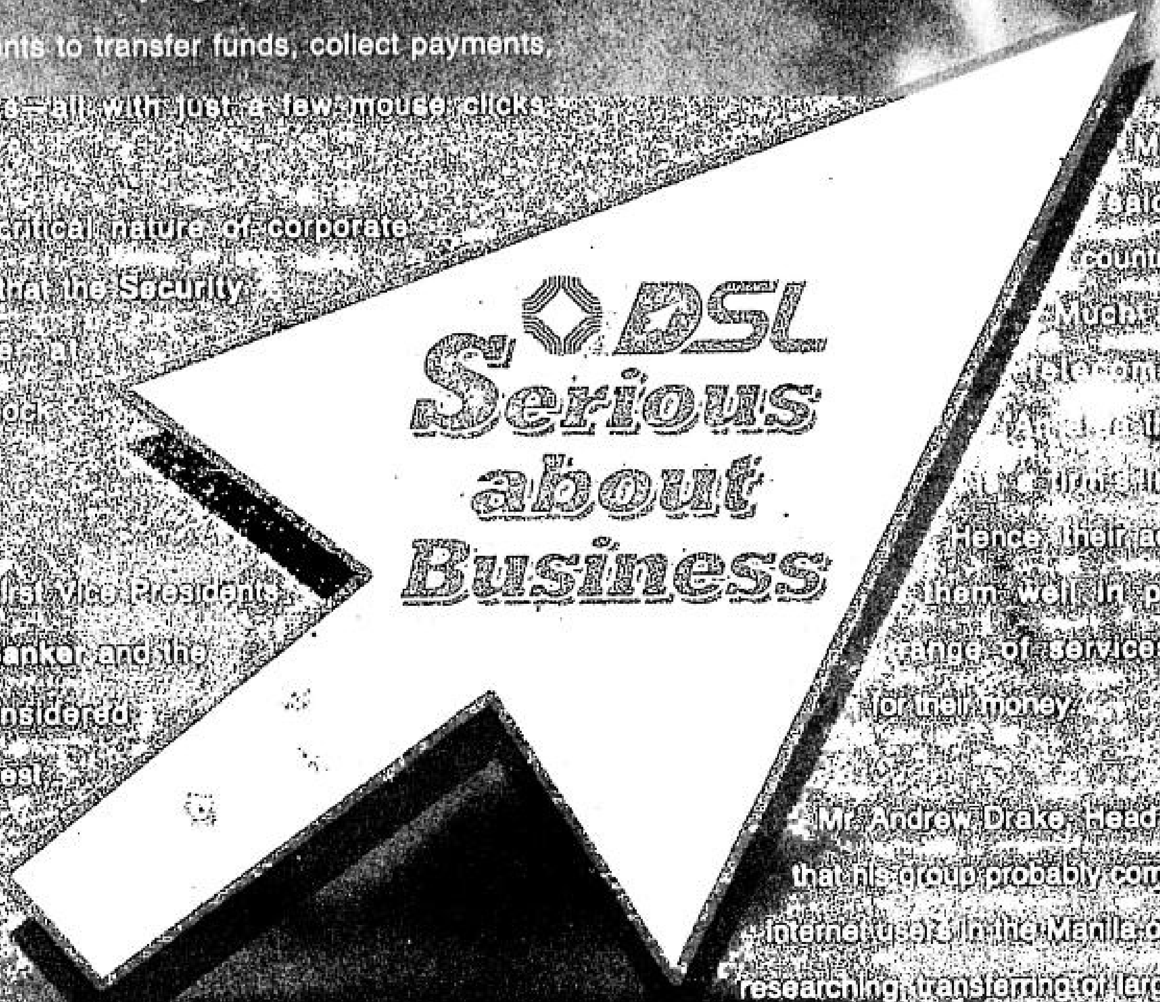
"It is important to give [our clients] the right processing speed, and the right response time," adds Mr. Yu. With its big bandwidth, information passes through the PLDT DSL line faster than any DigiBanker client can ever imagine, no matter how many other clients are simultaneously logged on.

Security Bank's FVP Daniel Yu & FVP Manny Narciso

"And as far as connection is concerned, PLDT DSL has always delivered above and beyond their commitment," commends Mr. Narciso.

Today, barely 18 months since its launch, **Security Bank's DigiBanker** has already given the convenience of online fund management to 100 of the Philippines' 2,000 largest corporations. Mr. Narciso predicts that getting the other 1,900 to connect shouldn't be a problem.

HEADSTRONG is a global consultancy firm that provides business services that help traditional businesses transform into digital businesses. It has offices in Europe, United States and the Asia Pacific, all of which aim to create strong relationships with their clients through successful project management. It offers a wide range of services from strategy to solution implementation through application maintenance.



In the Philippines, Headstrong operates as a global development and [illegible] center. Marife Zamora, Managing Director of Headstrong, said its presence in a developing country requires a great deal of credibility. "Much is expected, such as expertise, telecommunications and technology. A[illegible] that is always thoroughly evaluated [illegible] firm's infrastructure," says Miss Zamora. Hence, their acquisition of PLDT DSL has served them well in providing their customers with a range of services that result in significant value for their money.

Mr. Andrew Drake, Head of Research of Headstrong, believes that his group probably comprises the most intensive collection of internet users in the Manila office. Faced with tasks such as heavy researching, transferring of large files and posting of materials in the website for both internal and external purposes, PLDT DSL has given them the advantage over other companies in terms of speed, reliability and accuracy. "With DSL, we now have the opportunity to manage our files of several hundreds of megabytes," says Mr. Drake.

"We're supporting a global organization and that's a challenge in itself," says Miss Zamora. "With PLDT DSL [illegible] the operations of Headstrong are under control, and clients are fully satisfied because its speed and reliability results in very good performance."

Headstrong's Marife Zamora, Managing Director

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BUSINESS*Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

It's back to basics for marketing

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

ABOUT five years ago, marketing folks adopted a concept called integrated marketing communications in selling their products.

The concept became so popular that everybody started using it. Some schools even offered it as a course in their business curriculum.

Well, these same folks are starting to realize that integrated marketing may not be such a smart strategy after all.

Integrated marketing is principally a strategy that uses a range of marketing approaches to sell a product or a service.

So if you are selling a shampoo, you will use the traditional media—television, radio and print—and below-the-line activities like product sampling, conducting actual tests, and holding events.

"In the past four to five years, the Asia-Pacific region has been talking about total communication or integrated communication. Ad agencies even set up units to do this," says Raymond So, chair for the Asia-Pacific of BBDO, an international advertising agency with a local partner in the Philippines, BBDO/Guerrero Ortega.

Creating awareness

So says the intention of integrated marketing is to expose the consumers to many different communication vehicles and create more awareness with the brand.

SO

He says that while the aim is to think of ways to talk to the consumers, "I don't think many found a way to do it," says So, an advertising veteran who has spent over two decades in the industry.

"The concept is to travel different channels but I don't think people were successful. The result is cutting the pie, such that if a client has $100 million, under an integrated marketing concept, the client spends on 5-6 vehicles instead of focusing on one or two which may have been more effective. Thus they did not do well," he states.

The problem is that since everybody jumped the bandwagon of integrated marketing, somebody forgot to put the breaks and give everybody a chance to learn.

Not overnight

"The expertise and the knowledge cannot be learned overnight. There is not enough of a talent pool to concentrate on a field where one can specialize in and become an expert of," he says.

So adds that integrated marketing takes so much time, and adopting the concept involves not just the agency.

"The market changes, and brands change every day," So points.

The BBDO Asia-Pacific head says the key is to find the "effective hook between the consumer and the brand."

"It's back to basics," he says.

And in the advertising industry, back to basics means back to giving importance to the creative and the consumer insight.

In a crisis, the economic situation creates pressure on the clients or advertisers to make sure that their budget is used in the most effective way.

"Advertising is still the most powerful tool to sell. When the resources are limited, people concentrate on the corporate business than build awareness of the brands," he says.

In his experience, So says, when clients look at an agency, the most critical aspect is its creative skills.

"Clients look for an agency that understands their products and has the creative people to sell the products," he says.

Strong RP team

He adds that the Philippine office of BBDO is very important in the Asia-Pacific region because it has a strong creative team.

"We use the office as one of the regional creative resources," he says. This means the local office

IT'S BACK/ C7

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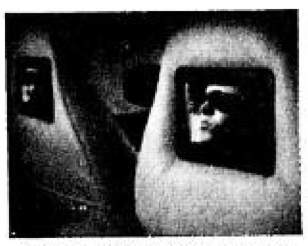

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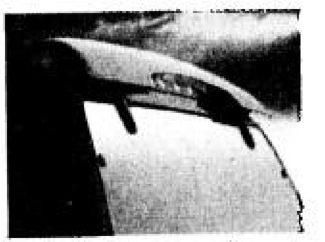

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Use passion and laughter in your presentation

By Henry S. Tenedero
Contributor

I HAVE always experienced this after every lecture or seminar: guests or members of the audience shaking my hands and telling me "Sir, we really enjoyed your presentation. It was funny, but very informative," or other words to that effect.

THE AUTHOR

Now, many people are wondering how that works. Because we have this notion that the presenter should match the seriousness of the topic for discussion, we often end up having very formal, very stiff, and ho-hum presentations.

But what they don't realize is that in order to excite, reach out and sustain the attention and interest of your audience, you have to tickle their funny bones and make them really feel your presentation.

Contrary to popular belief, using passion and humor does not make you less of a presenter, rather it elevates you from being just a good presenter, to an effective one—somebody who is able to convey his message across to people from all walks of life.

Why use passion and humor in your presentations?

Passion and humor are excellent ways to excite an audience. You may be an expert in your field and be able to lecture hours and hours of information in your topic, but is that enough?

Passion and humor are great rapport builders which knock down audience resistance and improve learning retention. Mastering passion and humor and other high-explosion techniques put a fine polish in your presentation skills. This can help propel you to the top and make you stand out from your colleagues when you are making a professional presentation.

Modesty aside, I was ranked No. 1 in the evaluation of speakers in the just concluded Philippine Marketing Association's National Marketing Conference on the theme: "Winning in Tough Times: Stand Out or Lose Out."

I am not a "marketing professional" but an educator. So I was asked "How did you do it? How did you manage to sustain the attention of such a discriminating audience?" Simple. I walked my talk! It all happened because I used passion and laughter in my presentation.

Can just about anyone do it?

Of course. For starters, presenters should distinguish real humor from plain funny antics and jokes.

A joke is a bare gag, sometimes a one-liner. It becomes humor when it is inflated like a balloon with details, then punctured with a punch line. Humor is a funny story with a point. When you add details, it becomes a humorous anecdote.

When using a joke or humor in your speech, be sure to personalize it and match it with your personality, speech topic and audience. Don't let the story clash with the speech. And don't laugh at your own joke or story. Let the audience decide what's funny (or not).

When using humor ask yourself:

1. Will my joke or story tie in with the topic and flavor of the speech?

2. Will my audience feel OK

USE/C7

Drug firm tries to hit the mark by using focused marketing

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MARKETING STRATEGY

FORESIGHT, focus and a feel of the market. These are the ingredients that make up Bayer Philippines Inc.'s strategy in making Bayer aspirin, Canesten anti-fungal and Flintstones multi-vitamins among the most popular brands in the Philippines.

Bayer marketing manager for consumer care Joanna Marigold F. Tantoco says Bayer has been widely regarded for thinking ahead of consumers by predicting how new findings and products from its research and development center in Germany could be used to satisfy their future needs.

Tantoco explains that since a new drug needs at least five years of prescriptive introduction in the Philippines before it could be registered for over-the-counter sales, it pays to have a lot of prescience in drawing up a roadmap to develop a market for medicine.

Aside from the weekly medical updates from their regional office, Tantoco says Bayer Philippines has continuous research and surveys on customer needs and preferences as well as feedback from its network nationwide.

"It helps a lot to keep a pulse on the market to determine which products consumers need and whether our research group has already an active ingredient for this or our scientists have to search for a new one," Tantoco says.

Bayer recently launched its SHARE program aimed at educating the public and marketing its products at the grass-roots level. Tantoco says Bayer's staff has gone to health centers all over the country to provide a helping hand in government's efforts to spread health education. "We're educating the masses on the best cure for their ailments and at the same time we get fresh information on their needs," Tantoco says.

The program is seen as a cost-effective strategy for tapping highly populated areas since the *masa* relies mainly on allied groups in the health centers because they have very little resources to get a personal doctor.

"Aside from determining how to steer our product to suit market demands, Bayer over-the-counter group product manager Nikky Nicandro says Bayer concentrates only on four key areas in medicine—dermatology, nutritional, cardiovascular, and gynecology—to ensure that their resources were optimized to build key market. "We play only on the core competence of our products and needs of consumers where we can improve their lives."

Tantoco admits that Bayer is associated more with Baygon insecticides than over-the-counter drugs, despite being the inventor of the ubiquitous white tablet, aspirin. (Aspirin was produced by Felix Hoffman in 1890 to ease the pain of his father's arthritis.)

This was understandable, she says, because of Baygon's long dominant position in the market. But through precise marketing in the past years, Tantoco says Bayer has slowly built a name in OTC drugs by sticking to its core competence.

Bayer assistant product manager Daniel Tertel says Bayer excels in niche marketing because of its relatively small size compared with pharmaceutical giants. Its size allows the German firm to innovate in markets dominated by big players, such as in multi-vitamins, the most consumed drug among Filipinos.

Tantoco says Bayer was the first to market vitamins in chewable form to address mommy's problems with syrups to fussy children. "Chewable vitamins are more convenient for the parents than syrup because kids dig the fun shapes and yummy flavors of this healthy candy."

Bayer also introduced a his and hers vitamin called One-A-Day special wellness formula which is currently the leading brand in the United States.

Tertel says this product was meant to address the specific needs of each sex with the recommended daily allowance especially formulated for Filipinos.

BAYER OTC TEAM: (From left) Nikky Nicandro III, group product manager; Jill A. Salvador, assistant product manager; Daniel Tertel, assistant product manager and Gold F. Tantoco, marketing manager.

For example, Tertel says One-A-Day for men contains additional folic acid because males are more susceptible to cardiovascular afflictions while the women's version has more calcium and iron because females are more prone to osteoporosis and anemia. Tertel says users need not take several capsules just to get their ideal, daily dose of micronutrients.

Tertel says Bayer was planning to introduce more customized vitamins in the future based on age groups such as vitamins for senior citizens and teenagers.

Bayer is also present in the anti-fungal category with its Canesten brand, cornering a 65-percent share of the market. "It's the only anti-fungal recommended by doctors. When consumers think doctor-recommended, they think Canesten," Nicandro says.

Nicandro says having a doctor's recommendation tag was a big sales boost to Canesten. "Advertising through different media can only get you so far because most Filipinos rely primarily on doctor's advice for their ailments."

Nicandro says recommendations from family and friends are also a key factor in determining a success of a medicine brand. Nicandro says Canesten's proven efficacy—its active ingredient Clotrimazole can solve four types of foot infections—has made it a popular choice among Filipinos.

Bayer is building up further its presence in anti-fungal by moving from general cure to special treatment of specific fungal infections such as for ear and vaginal infections.

Bayer assistant product manager Jill Salvador has marketed the Canesten vaginal tablet to solve a common fungi problem that hits roughly seven out of 10 Filipinas at least once in their lifetime. "The problem of vaginal candidiasis has become more common now especially with the current fashion of tight jeans and T-backs," Salvador says. "Older people used to recommend vinegar and water to cure the itching but now Bayer offers a better alternative."

Salvador says the product comes in three packages depending on the length of treatment. While Bayer tapped Kris Aquino to educate the public about vaginal candidiasis two years ago, Salvador says most of their buyers still want to get their doctor's advice for what they consider a very private matter unlike American and European women who were more open about these things.

Tax savings on donations

By Divina Gracia U. Cabildo-Yap
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

DONATION is generally defined as the voluntary transfer of title and ownership to property to another person without any payment.

As a rule, donations are subject to donor's tax. If the donee (recipient) is a stranger, the uniform tax rate is 30 percent of the total net gifts for the calendar year regardless of the amount.

Under the Tax Code, a stranger is one who is not a brother or sister, spouse, ancestor and lineal descendant, nor a blood relative within the fourth degree (until first cousins) of the donor.

Otherwise, the tax is generally computed based on rates from 2 percent to 15 percent, the first P100,000 of the net gifts being exempt. Net gifts refer to the remaining amount of donations made within the calendar year after deducting the applicable exemptions.

Thus, net gifts equals gross gifts less deductions/exemptions.

The government, however, recognizes the noble purpose of philanthropic individuals and corporations that donate to and support certain organizations which is why mechanisms were put in place to either exempt or reduce the donor's tax imposed on these individuals and corporations.

Regulations are provided to encourage donors to support accredited donees, to assure its proper utilization as well as achieve the donor's objective at less cost.

Exemption from donor's tax: Under the Tax Code, the following donations are fully exempt from donor's tax:

(i) Those made to or for the use of the national government or any entity created by any of its agencies which is not conducted for profit, or to any of its political subdivision;

(ii) Those made in favor of an educational, charitable, religious, cultural or social welfare corporation, institution, accredited NGOs, trust or philanthropic organization or research institution or organization; provided however that not more than 30 percent of the gifts shall be used for administrative purposes.

Partial exemption of P10,000 is also available to a parent (who must be a Filipino resident) giving dowries or gifts on account of marriage and before its celebration or within one year after the event to each of his/her legitimate, recognized natural or adopted children.

For example, "Mr. A" made a cash donation of P100,000 to his son "B" who was getting married. No other donation was made during the year.

The net gifts subject to the schedular tax rates would be P90,000 (P100,000 - P10,000). Since under the schedular rates, the first P100,000 of the total net gifts is tax exempt, then "Mr. A" need not pay a donor's tax.

Full or partial/limited deductibility

Section 34(H) of the 1997 Tax Code, as implemented by Revenue Regulations No. 13-98 (RR 13-98), provides for the limited and full deductibility of certain donations.

The donor claiming limited or partial deduction may claim an amount not exceeding 10 percent (for individuals) and 5 percent (for corporate donors) as a deductible expense from income derived from trade, business or profession as computed without the benefit of this deduction.

Donations actually made within the taxable year to or for the use of the following are subject to limited deductibility by the donor:

1. Philippine government or any of its agencies or any political subdivision thereof exclusively for public purposes;

2. Accredited non-stock, non-profit corporations/associations/institutions.

On the other hand, donations actually made within the taxable year to or for the use of the following are subject to full deductibility:

1. Philippine government or any of its agencies or any political subdivisions including fully owned government corporations, exclusively to finance, to provide for, or to be used in undertaking priority activities according to the national priority plan determined by the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda);

2. Foreign onstitutions or international organizations in pursuance of or in compliance with agreements, treaties, commitments or special laws;

3. Accredited nongovernmental organizations (NGO).

Accredited non-stock, non-profit corporation and NGO

A "non-stock, non-profit corporation or organization" refers to a corporation or association created or organized under Philippine laws exclusively for one or more of the following purposes: religious, charitable, scientific, athletic, cultural, rehabilitation of veterans, and social welfare, no part of the net income or asset of which shall belong to or inure to the benefit of any member, organizer, officer or any specific person.

A "nongovernment organization" (NGO), on the other hand, refers to a non-stock, non-profit domestic corporation or organization operated exclusively for scientific, research, educational, character building and youth and sports development, health, social welfare, cultural or charitable purposes, or a combination thereof.

No part of the net income of the NGO should benefit any private individual, donating under the following conditions:

(i) not later than the 15th day of the 3rd month after the close of the NGO's taxable year in which contributions are received, makes utilization directly for the active conduct of the activities constituting its purpose;

(ii) its level of administrative expenses shall on an annual basis not exceed 30 percent of the total expenses for the taxable year; and

(iii) its assets, in the event of dissolution, would be distributed to another accredited NGO organized for similar purpose/s, or to the state for public purpose/s, or would be distributed by a competent court to another accredited NGO to be used in such manner as in the judgment of said court shall best accomplish the general purpose for which the dissolved organization was organized.

Notably, a non-stock, non-profit corporation and an NGO may have similar purpose/s except that an accredited NGO cannot have religious and rehabilitation of veterans as valid purposes of its existence and accreditation.

Moreover, there are additional requirements to be classified as an NGO.

"Scientific" and "research" purposes are defined together while "athletic" purpose has the same definition as "character building and youth and sports development."

For purpose of exemption from donor's tax, on the other hand, it should be noted that "athletic" purpose is not among the enumerated exemptions.

Thus, donations for athletic purposes can only be exempted from donor's tax if the donee is an accredited NGO as specified in Section 101 of the 1997 Tax Code.

Accordingly, to save on taxes the donor may choose to donate only to accredited donee-institutions. Accreditation of a would-be donee with the accrediting entity is beneficial to a taxpayer-donor, who would not only be exempt from donor's tax but would also be entitled to full or limited deduction of such donations from taxable income.

In the same vein, if an institution wishes to attract more donors, they may choose to have their institution accredited.

PCNC accreditation

The Philippine Council for NGO Certification Inc. (PCNC), a non-stock, non-profit corporation established by several NGO networks, has been duly designated by the secretary of finance as an accrediting entity pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement dated Jan. 29, 1998, executed by and between the secretary of finance and the PCNC's interim chairman.

PCNC is tasked to examine, evaluate and accredit non-stock, non-profit corporations and NGOs as a pre-requisite to their registration with the BIR as qualified-donee institutions.

After accreditation by the PCNC, its secretariat submits the certification results to the BIR for the issuance of the Certificate of Donee Institution Status to the accredited non-stock, non-profit corporation or accredited NGO.

Once registered as a donee institution, donations to said accredited entities will no longer be subject to donor's tax and may be fully or partially deductible from the donor's taxable income, subject to the substantiation requirements of the regulations.

Availing incentives

Claims for deductibility of donations shall be filed by the donor at the time of filing of the income tax return together with the certificate of donation where the date of receipt and amount of donation are indicated.

In donations of real or personal property, the amount shall be the acquisition cost of the property. The certificate of donation is issued by the accredited/qualified donee-institution in triplicate on every donation within 30 days after receipt.

The original copy is given to the donor, the duplicate to the BIR, and the other copy to the donee.

For donations worth over P1 million, a separate notice shall be given by the donor to the BIR within 30 days after receipt of the certificate of donation. The certificate of donation must always be attached to the notice to be submitted to the BIR.

On the other hand, donors claiming exemption from donor's tax on their donations to accredited/qualified donee-institution, must submit evidence or proof showing the amount of the cash donation, or the zonal value of real property at the time of donation, or the acquisition cost of personal property or its depreciated or book value at the time of donation.

Would-be donors and usual donors therefore may continue their devout pledge of donating and, at the same time, save on taxes.

By donating within the bounds of the exemptions provided by law, they can savor the experience of sharing their blessings and helping other people without any tax worries.

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GAMA Philippines members benefits a lot from the organization. As members of a dynamic organization, they receive the best practices, moving tips and winning philosophies on the key areas of management, productivity and recruitment that are essential for the individual as well as the agency to prosper. They also receive qualification to the prestigious GAMA Awards that give distinction to outstanding performance in activity and productivity wholly based on local industry standards, participation in all GAMA-oriented activities, including the Life Agency Management Program (LAMP)—GAMA International's annual meeting that features training from the industry's top performers and other success stories that motivates them to greater heights, and; Essentials of Management Development (EMD)—the program designed to master agency building with focus on the critical elements of vision, recruiting and selection, training and supervision, professional development, goal-setting and business plan.

SHOWN are (from left, standing) Priscilo Comia, Modesto Medrano, Gregorio Tongco, John Chua (below) Veronica Gonzalez, Vicitacion Lilia Chang, Conchita Tan (president), Zenaida Antonio (past president), Zenaida Antonio (2001 vice president), Gloria Kaw, Marita Abellera, Pat Yam, and Nelie Lim

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GAMA Philippines currently has members belonging to various life insurance companies, namely: Ayala Life, CMG, First Life, Insular Life, Manulife, National Life, Philamlife, Pioneer Allianz, Prulife of UK and Sun Life.

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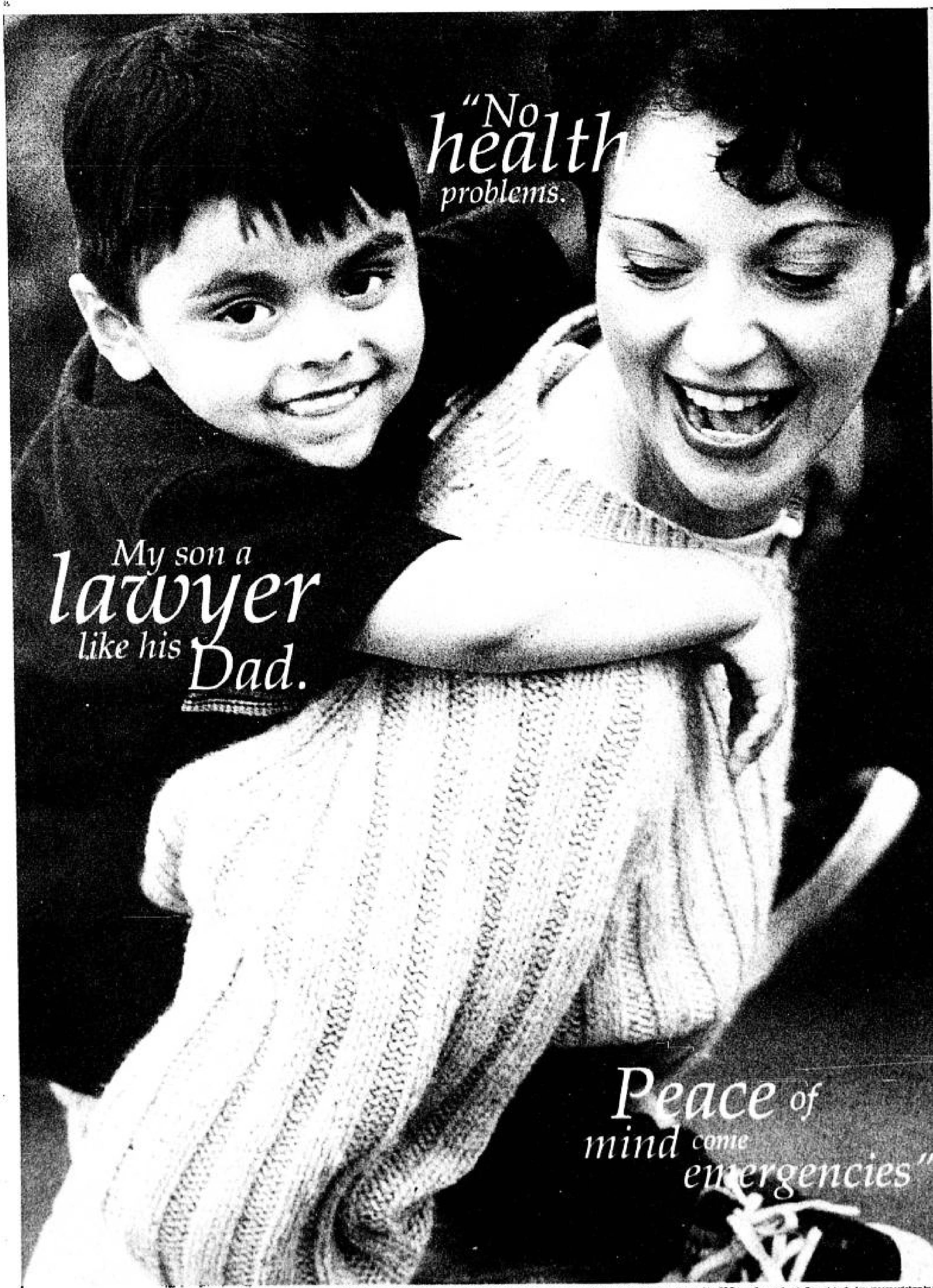

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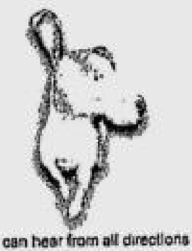
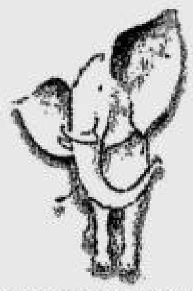

Dogs can hear from all directions due to more than 15 muscles that twist and turn their ears.


Elephant's ears aren't just great for listening, with a quick flap they also cool the elephant down

Dolphins are so clever they listen by receiving echoes on their jaw which they send to their inner ears

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CDA - Silver,
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Jaime M. Barba
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Cheryl Lynn J. Martinez
CDA - Silver,
Diamond

Edwin C. Gocuan
CDA - Silver,
Blue Pearl

Rina M. Siacunco
CDA - Silver,
Garnet

George H. Buncayo
CDA - Silver,
Jasper

Conchita C. Tan
CDA - Bronze,
Amethyst

Nellie Y. King
CDA - Bronze,
China Jade

Myrna L. Galban
CDA - Bronze,
Ruby

Henson Dave K. Tan
CDA - Bronze,
China Jade

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GAMA Mission Statement

To serve the professional development needs of individuals and companies engaged in building the distribution of financial products and services.

To advocate the value-added role of field and home office management in the ethical distribution of financial products and services.

To act as catalyst, connecting insurance companies, mutual fund companies and distribution management in the insurance and financial services industry.

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Congratulations to Manulife's GAMA Awardees!"

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President & CEO
Manulife Philippines

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT AWARD (NMA) SILVER AWARDEES

John Chua
Regional Sales Manager

Ricky Sarthou
Regional Sales Manager

GAMA
General Agents & Managers Association Philippines

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT AWARD (NMA) BRONZE AWARDEES

Margie Ongkeko
Branch Manager

Tonyboy Rodriguez
Branch Manager

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD (CDA) BRONZE AWARDEES

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Branch Manager

Daisy Moro
Asst. Branch Manager

Pam Cinco
Asst. Branch Manager

Marisa Orendain
Asst. Branch Manager

Robert Ong Uy
Asst. Branch Manager

Mel Vergara
Asst. Branch Manager

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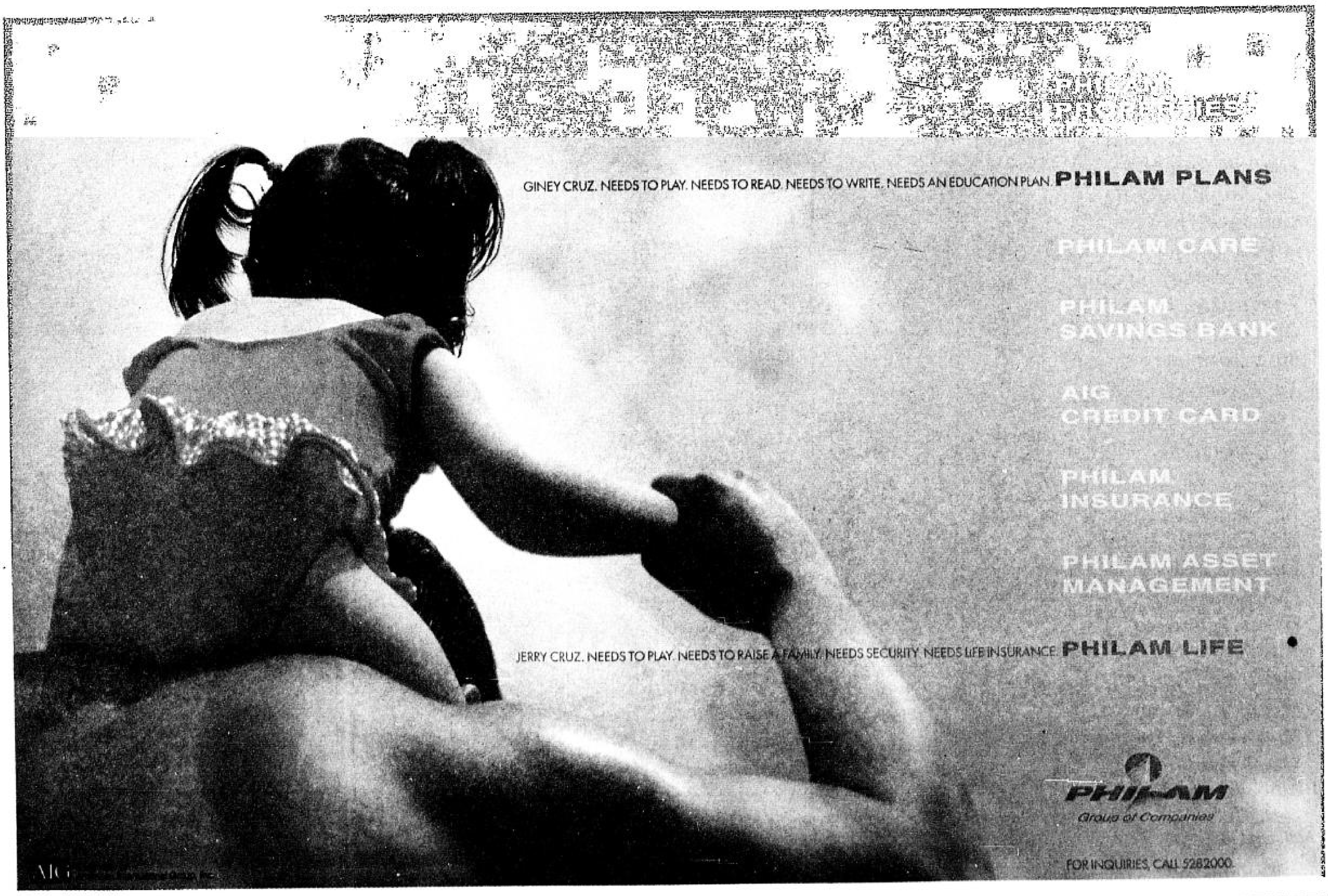

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NMA PLATINUM

Antonio, Jose Isagani
Philamlife

Chan, Mary
Sunlife

Chang, Visitacion Lilia
Sunlife

NMA GOLD

Del Mundo, Lourdes
Philamlife

Gonzales, Fredezwinda
Sunlife

Sy, Amy Flourine
Sunlife

NMA SILVER

MANULIFE
Chua, John
Sarthou, Enrique

PRULIFE
Gocuan, Henry

PHILAMLIFE
Capule, Enrico
Gonzalez, Veronica
Salientes, Rosario
Tan, Juan
Tongko, Gregorio

SUNLIFE
Abellera, Marita
Baluyut, Nancy
Buenaflor, Ma. Erlinda
Chiu, Emelyn
De Austria, David
Mclaren, Josefine
Ng, Estella
Sison, Pedro
Sy, Antonio
Yao, Benjamin

NMA BRONZE

SUNLIFE
Angeles, Yolanda
Kaw, Gloria
Legaspi, Yolanda
Reyes, Amelita
Sy, Alfredo
Tiu, Evangeline

CMG LIFE
Lim, Nelie

PHILAMLIFE
Comia, Priscilo
Cunanan, Leorando
Falague, Ruben
Mata, John
Pagaduan, Rosa
Reyes, Julius
Tan, Melba
Varias, Antonio

INSULAR LIFE
Arela, Pedro

Career Development Award (GOLD)

Rulla, Joseph
Philamlife

Lee, Christine
Sunlife

Career Development Award (SILVER)

SUNLIFE
Ang, Helen
Ang, Zeddy
Arquero, Marilou
Avila, Gloria
Bautista, Arthur
Borromeo, Arabella
Chua, Carmelita
Collado, Josephine
Del Mundo, Venus
Huang. Lorenza
Jao, Jose Pok bon,
Leechiu, Regina
Lim, Angelina
Lim, Jocelyn
Liuson, Judy
Olaguer, Ma. Teresa
Pamintuan, Josephine
Quintos, Lilibeth
Saw, Jasmine
Yu, Annie
Yu, Nanette Natalie

PHILAMLIFE
Altavas, Yolanda
Alterejos, Estrella
Antonio, Ma. Zenaida
Bautista, Nancy
Clet, Felicisimo
Flores, Francisco
Jerez, Alfonso
Medrano, Modesto
Mendoza, Roberto
Monteverde, Teresita
Tan, Roque
Zambrano, Zoilo

PRU LIFE
Barba, Edwin
Gocuan, Edwin
Koa, Hue Hun
Martinez, Cheryl Lynn
Yap, Katherine

AYALA LIFE
Gervasio, Genoveva
Francisco, Augusto

1ST LIFE
Gotohio, Josie

FORTUNE
Villamor, Socorro

INSULAR LIFE
Mabanag, Raul

Career Development Award (BRONZE)

PHILAMLIFE
Abanto, Orlando
Ancheta, Florentina
Ang, Corazon
Aquino, Ferdinand
Aseron, Feliza
Baruc, Epimacu
Belino, Maximo
Bernardo, Roberto
Bobe, Emilie
Bongala, Domingo
Briones, Anatalia,
Bucat, Eden
Carao, Emerita
Cleto, Cheryl Lourdes
De Leon, Florentino
Dela Rosa, Juanito
Demot, Fidel
Doculan, Marivic
Esma, Jun
Fordan, Eduardo
Galvez, Rosario
Gana, Imelda
Gonzaga, Concepcion
Hernandez, Adelaida
Hipol, Josefina
Huyatid, Carlos
Kierulf, Lucila
Laudico, Nelia
Lumbo, Godofredo
Maligalig, Jose
Mangaliag, Rodolfo
Maturino, Romualdo
Mendoza, Ma. Cristina
Mendoza, Rosa
Montonya, Basilisa
Mutia, Eduarda
Olaso, Myrna
Palcutan, Leonardo
Pastorin, Beatriz
Penales, Adoracion
Ramos, Romeo
Roque, Leonida
Solon, Narciso
Tan, Segundina
Tan, Vicente
Trangia, Isabel
Uy, Nilda
Veneracion, Carlos
Yam, Patricia
Yu, Wilfred
Zabalero, Nelia

FORTUNE LIFE
Borbe, Roque
Taguines, Victor

INSULAR LIFE
Arela, Teresita
Dela Cruz, Marilou

MANULIFE
Cinco, Pamela
Delos Santos, Teresita
Moro, Ma. Daisy
Ong Uy, Robert
Orendain, Marisa
Vergara Melinda

PRULIFE
Buncayo, George
Galban, Myrna
King, Nellie
Siacunco, Rina
Tan, Conchita
Tan, Dave Henson

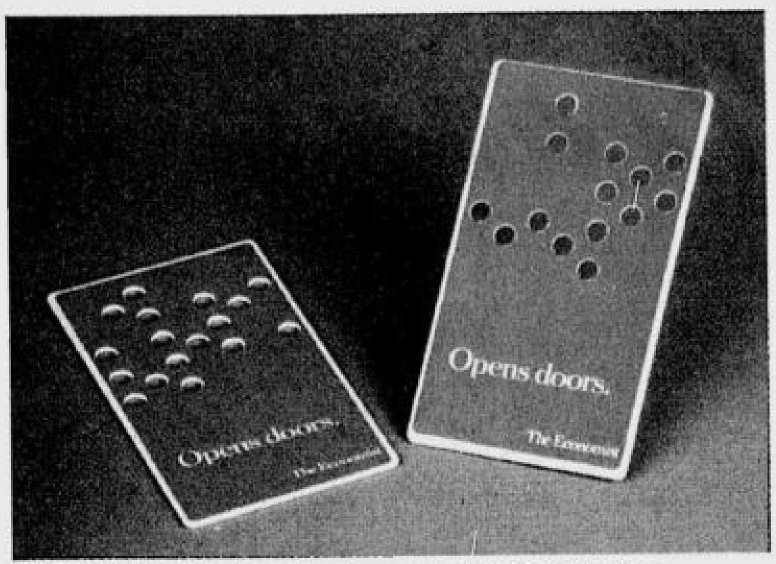
CMG LIFE
Yu, Robert

SUNLIFE
Ang, Ellen
Ang, Virginia
Canto, Corazon
Caranto, Pio
Chan, Esther
Chua, Anne T.
Chua, Linda
Garcia, Ma. Regina
Garcia, Myra Claire
Go, Feliciana
Go, Mary Elizabeth
Haw, Eileen
Katalbas, Julieta
Ladiona, Victor
Law, Gloria T.
Lee, Gloria
Lee, Luzviminda
Maximo, Noel
Montes, Josefina
Nery, Teresita
Perfecto, Dianne
Remonde, Danemila
Sobiaco, Jean
Suazo, Frederick
Sucero, Jocelyn
Tiongson, Randell
Uy, Alexander

GAMA

RP's first Clio Silver winner deserves a round of applause

By Roger Pe
Contributor



THE BRIEF for the ad was simple—create an above the line advertising for a relatively small market.

LAST month, the country's 25 all-time advertising classics were honored with a grand fanfare. They were considered as such because not only their advertising lingo created a national catchphrase, but they also became part of a culture.

Of the 25, how many of them can we really brand as timeless? Can they give the current crop of ads a run for their money? How many of them reaped international awards?

Quite a number of Philippine ads have pierced through the tough international awards shows previously dominated by Japan, Singapore and Thailand.

BBDO-Guerrero/Ortega has consistently lifted the Philippine flag in Cannes, Clio, One Show, London and New York Festivals and in the Asian circuit.

Leo Burnett has been figuring lately, along with TBWA-SMP, Ogilvy & Mather, Jimenez D'Arcy, Lowe Worldwide, Basic Advertising, McCann-Erickson, Ace-Saatchi and DDB.

Ogilvy & Mather's non-trad campaign for The Economist and Manila Mandarin Hotel gave us something to cheer about. Titled "Key," the ad replicates a hotel room's digital key and banners the message "Opens Doors" using the high-end business magazine's red color trademark. Unconventional and full of impact, it broke the existing Philippine record in the Clio for the last 50 years and went home with the country's first Silver ever.

The Philippines' previous record was two bronzes won in 1997 by David Guerrero, then with O&M for Anvil Publication.

How did O&M came up with a world-class campaign for a brand whose standards are high and used to winning international awards?

Creative director Peachy Todino-Pacquing says "the brief was simple—to create above-the-line advertising for a relatively small market." That didn't make sense to her. Instead, she and her concept team composed of copywriters Raoul Floresca, Rosene Santos and Art Director Dorky Mallare thought of coming up with a creative, non-traditional ways of communicating to the target—the frequent travelers.

They thought of media vehicles—key cards, valet tickets, etc. that were unheard of. The billboard executions were unconventional. They were mounted a stone's throw from the airport. Asked if it was easy coming up with a breakthrough idea, Peachy says "the work had to be as brilliant as London's, Singapore's and Hong Kong's which have history of award-winning campaigns for the magazine. We showed them that it could be better. It was easy because there were practically no rules and we had great clients who were not only receptive but had great respect. Respect played a huge role. We respected the client's intelligence, as well as the consumer's and they respected our creative recommendations."

Peachy and her team say it was also hard because the pressure was incredible. The "Key" idea came naturally but the billboards made them bleed buckets. But in the end, the hardships resulted in champagne toasts.

The Economist's campaign practically barged into every regional and international awards competition they entered. Apart from the Clio Silver, it was one of only two Philippine finalists in Cannes this year. It also bagged a Bronze in Asia's version of Cannes, the Asia Pacific Adfest in Pattaya last April and won a Spike and Certificate in the 2002 Asian Outdoor Advertising Awards held in Hong Kong just this month.

In the next 25 years, Ogilvy & Mather's campaign for The Economist will become a classic, along with the rest of the unsung Philippine ads that gave the country honor in Cannes, Clio, One Show, London, New York Festivals and Asian Awards.

Surely, they all deserve more than a black-tie dinner and a noontime variety show presentation.

New improved Milo boosts energy better

IF you're a mom with an active child, here's some good news. Nestle Philippines, a maker of Milo, the Olympic Energy Drink, announces the launch of New Improved Milo with Actigen-E. Your child's favorite chocolate drink is now enriched with more B-vitamins and other micronutrients to help keep him energetic and tireless through the day.

You don't have to worry that your child will lose steam before the day ends. New improved Milo is fortified with a unique blend of B-vitamins and other nutrients called Actigen-E, which helps in the optimal release of energy. The essential B-vitamins actually suppress tiredness and fatigue, thus giving your child enough energy to keep up with all his activities.

The B-vitamin complex found in Actigen-E also supports your kid's mental growth and alertness. New improved Milo with Actigen-E has vitamins B1 (thiamine), which helps blood formation and assists brain function; B2 (riboflavin), which is responsible for antibody production and growth; vitamin B3 (niacin), which is required for the release of energy and metabolism of carbohydrates, fats and proteins; vitamins B5 (pantothenic acid), which helps in the proper function of memory and learning abilities; vitamin B6 (pyridoxine), a nutrient which assists the immune system and the growth of new cells; vitamin B9 (folic acid), which is important in the production of hemoglobin for oxygen transport; and vitamin B12 (cobolamin), which stimulates appetite, promotes growth, and increase energy.

Health experts say that if your child has an adequate supply of B-vitamins, he can sustain his energy level from the time he gets to school until his classes are over. Another vitamin found in Milo is Vitamin C or ascorbic acid. Aside from helping prevent the common cold, it helps develop resistance against infection and is a very good antioxidant.

Calcium, iron and magnesium are some of the minerals that your child needs. Calcium is a vital mineral promoting healthy bones and teeth. Iron is a mineral necessary for making hemoglobin, the substance that carries oxygen to the tissues of the body. Magnesium is another essential mineral required to maintain a child's health. Together with calcium, it is responsible for the production of adrenosine triphosphate (ATP), the most important high-energy phosphate compound. In addition, good magnesium levels are needed for optimal muscle contraction.

With a formulation containing these various nutrients, New Improved Milo with Actigen-E helps your child grow stronger and healthier. It helps him achieve optimum energy and mental development.

So if you want your child to have maximum energy, a sound mind and healthy body, give him New Improved Milo with Actigen-E everyday.

New improved Milo with Actigen-E will be available in pack size of 1000, 600, 300, 200 and, 60 and 18 grams at stores and supermarkets nationwide.

SKM INAUGURATES NEW OFFICE

Sinclair Knight Merz, a leading professional services consulting firm operating in the buildings, energy, environmental, infrastructure, industrial, minerals, advisory and spatial markets across the globe, recently inaugurated its new offices at the Orient Square, Ortigas Center in Pasig City. Shown, from left, are Jo Moss, principal (SKM Sydney), Geoff Linke, general manager on environment, (SKM Melbourne), Lyndsay Chapple, president (SKM Philippines), Elsie Trinidad, OIC, Resettlement Development Services Department of NHA, Craig Wilson, executive vice president (SKM Philippines, and Yolly Fernandez, business development manager (SKM Philippines).

Supermarkets hope Chinese will agree that bigger is better

GUANGZHOU, China—Ten years ago, Zhen Yan used bars of unscented, China-made soap to wash his hair.

These days he is spoilt for choice for a bottle of shampoo, as foreign chains build ever-bigger supermarkets in a battle for a share of Chinese consumers' rising spending.

Margins can be razor-thin and some operators lose money, but hypermarkets—where entire families can spend several hours at a time shopping for everything from fresh produce to TV sets—are gaining popularity among China's growing consumer class.

"I came to shop here because it's the biggest supermarket around with the most goods," said Zhen, clutching a bag of groceries bought at the city's newest market, a 203,000-square foot colossus run by the ParknShop arm of Hong Kong conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa Ltd .

In the unlikely event he can't find what he's looking for on one of ParknShop's three floors, Zhen can jump in a taxi for the 10-minute ride to rival Carrefour's hypermarket—a familiar destination for cab drivers here even though it has been open only a month.

The new ParknShop is the fourth "mega" store that the chain has opened since July 2001 in Guangdong province, the wealthy industrial region that borders Hong Kong.

"Many foreign as well as domestic players are shifting the focus to hypermarkets, so small supermarkets are seeing intensifying competition," said Fan Cheuk Wan, an analyst with ABN Amro.

"Big retailers have the capacity to establish efficient, large-scale hypermarkets, especially in rich regions like Guangdong and eastern China," she said, citing giants Wal-Mart Stores Inc and Carrefour as well-positioned to succeed.

To lure price-sensitive Chinese consumers, big retailers offer steep discounts and often undercut each other.

The market is fragmented, with China's top 100 retailers accounting for only 6 percent of the country's total retail sales, UBS Warburg said.

Analysts say Wal-Mart's China stores, which totaled 20 at the end of July, have been loss-making.

"We are the cheapest, I can guarantee you, we are cheaper than wet markets," said Iwan Evans, chief executive officer of ParknShop, referring to the fresh food bazaars where mainland Chinese traditionally shop.

He said ParknShop stores in China are profitable as a whole, although their average margin was just over one percent, less than the 1.5-percent margin at the firm's Hong Kong stores.

The company plans another mammoth store in Guangzhou by the end of the year and one in Shanghai next year, he said.

"China is more than a country. China to me is a continent, it's huge," Evans said on the sidelines at the opening of the Guangzhou store, which cost about HK$80 million (US$10.25 million) to build. "The Chinese consumer has leapfrogged from supermarkets to hypermarkets," he said.

If that's the case, ParknShop found out the hard way in the 1990s when it retreated from its older grocery format in Shanghai, incurring a HK$600 million charge when it pulled out.

In China, ParknShop said it now favours behemoth stores that provide a one-stop, full-day shopping experience.

The company's 100,000-200,000 square foot "mega" stores in China, which are supported by a nearby logistics and sourcing centre, on average churn out 16,000 transactions each day. Each bill is more than 70 yuan (US$8.46), higher than in Hong Kong.

By comparison, China's largest retail chain, the unlisted Shanghai-based Lianhua Supermarket Co Ltd, has stores that are typically smaller than 11,000 square feet.

Evans said ParknShop has the resources to compete in China's increasingly competitive retail market. Its parent firm is controlled by Asia's richest tycoon Li Ka-shing. *Reuters*

BBDO'S DOT CAMPAIGN WINS AWARD

BBDO Guerrero Ortega's "More than usual" campaign for Department of Tourism won Creative Guild's Ad of the month. Tourist arrivals increased by 10 percent since the ad launch, according to DOT. From left: Gil Yuson (DOT marketing consultant), DOT Undersecretary Rolando Reyes, David Guerrero (BBDO Guerrero Ortega), Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Mio Chiongson (BBDO Guerrero Ortega), and Rosvi Gaetos (OUC-PCVC).

Use passion and laughter ...

From page C2

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5. Appropriate body gestures.
6. Good vocal variety.
7. Raising an eyebrow.
8. Smiling.
9. Personal and natural humor.
10. Appropriate body gestures.
11. Good vocal variety.

(The author is a graduate of the Harvard University Graduate School for Professional Education Leaders. He will teach the ropes of energizing and enlivening presentations and lectures in a three-day seminar and workshop on Sept. 25, 26 and 27, 1-6 p.m., at Westin Philippine Plaza, For inquiries call 374-4967 or 374-0973 or email henyo@iconex.net.)

MAG-NESTLÉ ALMUSAL AWARDS BRAND-NEW CAR

Edgar J. sia (fourth from left) recently took home a brand-new Honda Civic VTI-S as the grand prize winner of the Mag-Nestlé Almusal SMS Challenge. During the texting competition, Ericsson T68 and Nestlé gift packs were given to the weekly winners and daily winners received Nokia 3360 mobile phones. With Sia are (from left) Angelis D. Guzman, Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) representative; Jocelyn Ortiz, Nestlé Philippines Inc. Marketing Promotions Officer; Raul Estrada, Honda Cars Area Sales supervisor for West Visayas; and Jay Caballero, Nestlé Philippines Inc. management trainee.

It's back to basics for marketing

From page C1

produces ads that are used regionally.

The best example is the Visa ad of Zhang Zi Yi, star of the movie, The Crouching Tiger. The ad has been used regionally and, has reaped awards for the agency.

There is a tendency of advertisers to create one ad for a region and according to So, the advantage of this is that resources from several offices are pooled saving time money and effort.

So was recently in the country as part of his regular visit of regional offices.

BBDO/Guerrero Ortega was set up four years ago. BBDO used to have a venture with PAC (Philippine Advertising Counsellors), another ad agency.

Recently BBDO/ Guerrero Ortega set up set up its own media specialist division in Media Direction, headed by Hermie de Leon.

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Beyond Measure

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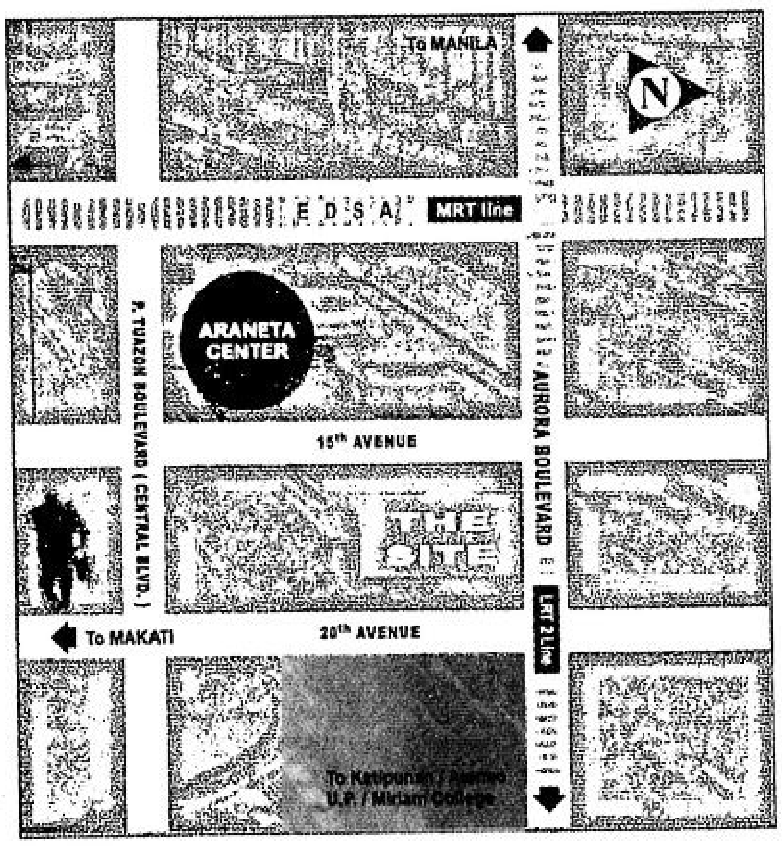

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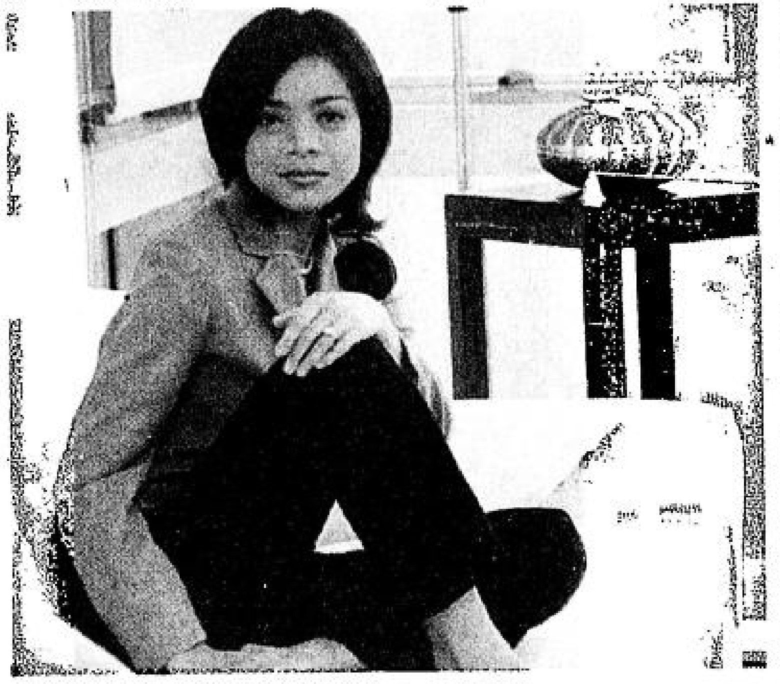
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



SUITED FOR THE NEWS. Olive houndstooth blazer by Petite Sophisticate and black slacks

No-fuss Vicky

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Joan Bondoc

SHE can slip into an ultra-feminine white silk gown and don a pair of dark blue denims and carry both outfits with the same flair, ease and grace.

SINGULAR STYLE

"I'm basically a slacks person," Vicky Morales, the charming and dusky news and current affairs host of GMA-7, smiles. "We never know where our adventures will take us and slacks allow me to move about freely."

Whether interviewing foreign dignitaries, politicians or the man on the street, Vicky is adept at making her subject feel very much at ease the moment she flashes that warm and sincere smile.

Morales has had adventures that have had her scaling billboards on Edsa, going down dangerous mines in Baguio, and living by the railroad tracks for a week. Last year, she won the KBP Golden Dove Award for Best Public Affairs Host. Thus, her wardrobe is an interesting mix of sporty outfits, dressy casuals for week-ends spent with family, smart blazers and slacks for the evening news and sophisticated formal wear for the occasional award nights or state dinners. However, believe it or not, most, or practically all of them were bought off the rack.

"I just don't have the time to go and have clothes made," she explains. "The last time I had something designed was my wedding gown (by Inno Sotto). Though if Inno probably lived close by I would have more clothes made," she laughs.

Forever on the go, Vicky is not partial to any brand and will be the first to say that she is not

NO-FUSS/ p.D4

DESIGNER CASUALS. Escada Sport denim sleeveless blouse over linen capris in khaki. Note the schoolgirl-style flats.

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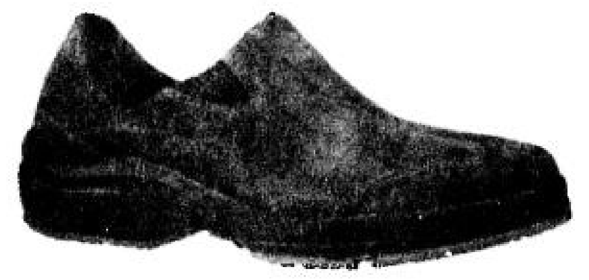

Walk...

zero g

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MONTEREY Pork Menudo Cut	P128.00/kg.	Reg. Price 153.00
BIG MAMA Pork Pata • Fore	P73.00/kg.	Reg. Price 80.00
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MONTEREY Beef Short Ribs	P122.00/kg.	Reg. Price 130.00
Tinapang Salinas	P137.00/kg.	
Shandong Pear #96	P35.00/kg.	Reg. Price 40.00
MONTEREY Beef Brisket	P147.00/kg.	Reg. Price 165.00
Okra	P19.00/kg.	
Watermelon Sugar Baby	P70.00/pc.	
BIG MAMA Pork Belly Skin-on	P109.00/kg.	Reg. Price 122.00
Green Bell Pepper	P120.00/kg.	
Gala Apple #100	P53.00/kg.	Reg. Price 80.00 *Not available in SM Makati
BIG MAMA Pork Cubes	P117.00/kg.	Reg. Price 126.00
Native Tomato	P33.00/kg.	
SAN REMO Penne Rigate 500g	P39.75/pk.	

FREE SM BONUS

BAKED CREAMY TOMATO PENNE

Ingredients:

1 pack	(500 g.) San Remo Penne Rigate, cooked al dente
3/4 kg.	tomatoes, diced
1 1/2 cup	cream
1/2 cup	canned pimiento, chopped
1/4 cup	butter
2 cups	ham cubes
2 cups	quick melt cheese, grated
2 tsp.	oregano
	salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1 cup	quick melt cheese, grated (for topping)

Procedure:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a saucepan, add diced tomatoes, cream, chopped pimiento, butter, ham cubes, grated cheese and oregano. Cook for 5 to 10 minutes until sauce is smooth. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Place cooked penne pasta in baking dish, add in creamy tomato sauce and mix well. Top with grated cheese and bake for 30 minutes.

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A Mind of Gold: MJ Maranan

The youngest kid in class is also the smartest. That's MJ Maranan, accelerated from Nursery to Kinder 2. Nurtured with proper guidance and good nutrition, he has been given an edge when it comes to academics.

MJ's parents first noticed that he was an advanced learner when he was 8 months old. That's when he learned how to speak and to walk. As a toddler, MJ became more observant, attentive to his surroundings and asked questions constantly, compared to children his age. When he entered nursery school, MJ was so advanced that he had been given 9 awards, including *Champion in Science Quiz Bee, Best in Math and 1st honor*. It was inevitable for him to skip an entire grade level.

Apart from being an accelerated learner, MJ is much like young kids his age. He loves to play computer games, watch cartoons and play with his younger sister.

"We just give him lots of TLC (tender loving care), buy him educational books, let him explore and discover new things", states MJ's mother, Mrs. Maribel Maranan. *"We never give him junk food... he loved drinking Progress before bedtime"*, she continues.

Accelerated Learning

Medical research has demonstrated that the most rapid period of brain development occurs in the first few years of a child's life. Your child's outstanding ability to retain information, be it as simple as hitting a pot with a spoon, is largely associated with the function of a hundred billion nerve cells, or neurons in his brain.

From birth, these neurons immediately form connections or synapses as your child experiences his surroundings. This network of neurons and synapses controls various functions, such as seeing, hearing, and moving. By the age of four, a child's brain has about 1,000 trillion synapses. However, if a child's brain is not properly nurtured, these synapses may not fully develop, impairing his ability to learn and grow. Apart from giving your child the best care and providing him with a nurturing environment, you should also sustain his rapidly developing brain with the best nutrition during this crucial period.

The GoldMind Formulation

The proper balance of nutrients helps your child develop both physically and mentally. Each nutrient has its own specific function, and all nutrients work together. Too much or too little of these may prove to deter your child's development.

That is why it is important that children be given milk that contains the exclusive **GoldMind Formulation.** It is a breakthrough formula with an appropriately balanced, well-tolerated blend of nucleotides for enhanced immunity; iron for the prevention of anemia; a blend of natural mixed carotenoids for maintenance of healthy cells; and Preformed DHA & AA for visual acuity and brain development.

Preformed DHA & AA

Proper nutritional care for your child's growing brain requires significant amounts of **Preformed DHA and AA** (Docosahexaenoic Acid & Arachidonic Acid) during his growing up years. These are long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids that help support mental and visual development in children. In recent studies, children who were nurtured with milk rich in **Preformed DHA and AA** have improved IQ test scores than those who were not given significant amounts of **Preformed DHA and AA.** Supplementation of milk with Preformed DHA and AA can result in quantifiable improvement of mental development especially during the early childhood years.

Nucleotides

Studies have shown that children who have a significant amount of nucleotides in their system have a more mature immune system that is better equipped to protect itself against infectious diseases.

Nucleotides may be found in adult foods such as liver, kidney, seafood and legumes. However, a typical toddler's diet consists of fruits and vegetables, which are poor sources of nucleotides. The richest source of nucleotides is breastmilk. It contains 13 known nucleotides. You may also find a growing-up milk supplement that contains 5 important nucleotides. These are *cytidine monophosphate, guanosine monophosphate, inosine monophosphate, uridine monophosphate and adenosine monophosphate*. These 5 nucleotides help improve your child's immune system.

Natural Mixed Carotenoids

Carotenoids are the naturally occurring pigments that give fruits and vegetables their bright colors. There are dozens of carotenoids and most of them have antioxidant properties. Combining carotenoids with one another or with other categories of antioxidants such as vitamins increases their antioxidant activity.

Carotenoids protect cells and tissues from the damaging effects of free radicals. Other health benefits of carotenoids include enhancement of immune system function and inhibition of the development of certain types of cancers (Nishino 1998).

A Golden Opportunity

Your commitment to nurture and develop your child into a healthy, happy and bright individual is of great importance. Helping your child advance towards a world of learning and discovery today will help ensure a better and brighter future for him. Help your child achieve optimum mental development from 1 year onwards. Give him growing-up milk that contains Preformed DHA & AA plus all the essential nutrients a child needs.

References:

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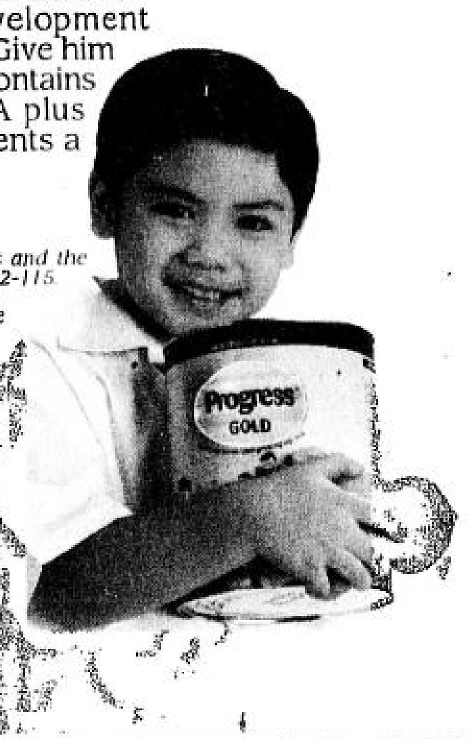

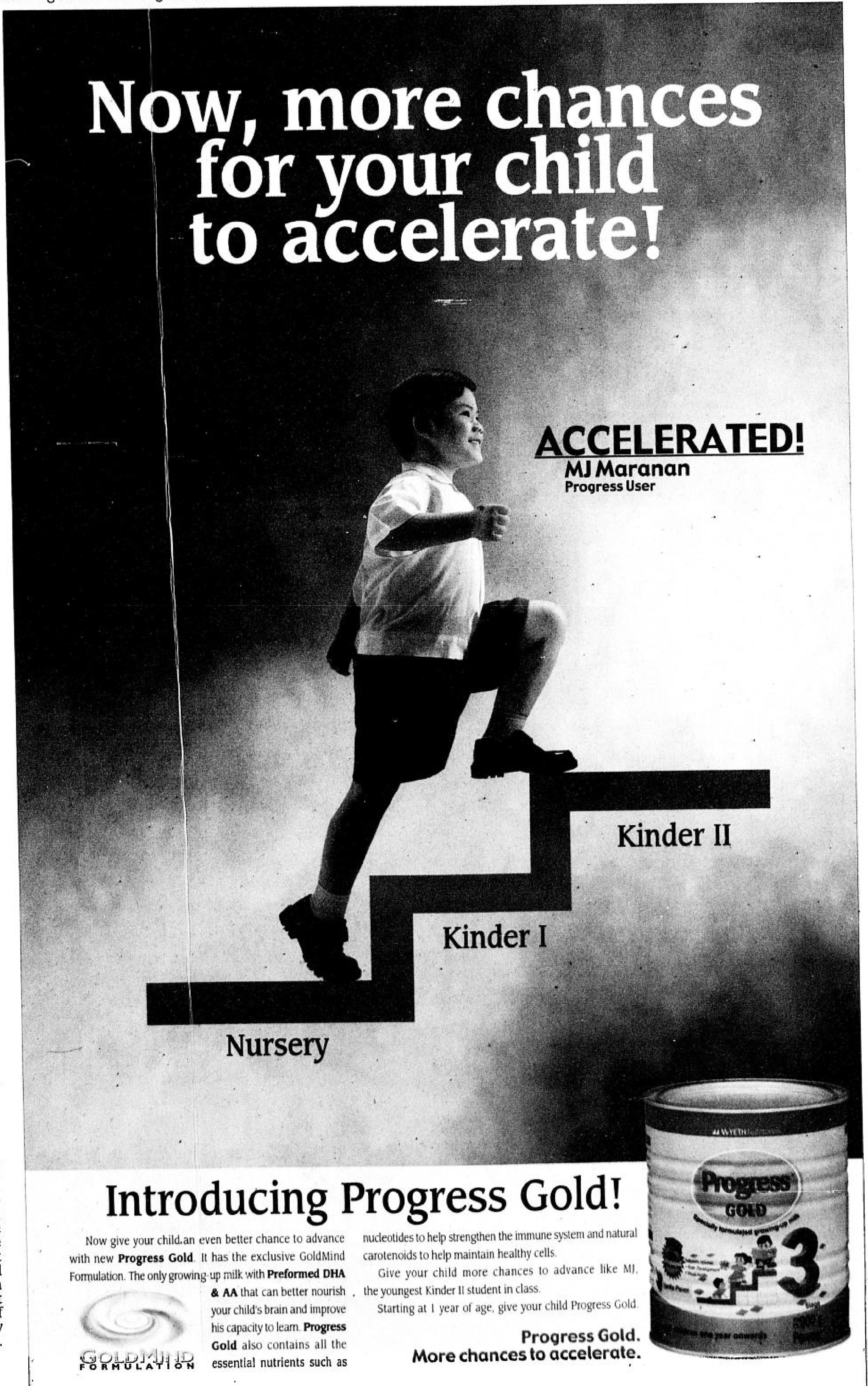

Introducing Progress Gold!

Now give your child an even better chance to advance with new **Progress Gold**. It has the exclusive GoldMind Formulation. The only growing-up milk with **Preformed DHA & AA** that can better nourish your child's brain and improve his capacity to learn. **Progress Gold** also contains all the essential nutrients such as nucleotides to help strengthen the immune system and natural carotenoids to help maintain healthy cells.

Give your child more chances to advance like MJ, the youngest Kinder II student in class.

Starting at 1 year of age, give your child Progress Gold.

Progress Gold.
More chances to accelerate.

ADVT.

He loves her but can't forget her past

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

DEAR Tita Dulce,

There is this woman in my life that I truly love. Whenever she is around, my joy is unequalled. Her smile, touch, kiss, concern and every move tickles my very soul.

But a mistake in her past haunts and tortures me. From the start, she has told me that she lost her virginity years ago to someone I knew. At first I took the information lightly, maybe because I wasn't serious then. Now that I want to marry her, it is giving me a terrible headache. I seem to be jealous of or angry about her past. I know it's wrong and unfair but often, I (have these) images that confuse and cause me pain.

I would like to ask you to enlighten me about this problem. My head needs to be cleared of the dark ghosts because, although I feel confused, my love for her is great. She wants me as her husband; I still want her as my lifetime partner.

Thank you and more power.

RADZ

Think positive, my dear. Strengthen your mind so you can erase from your thoughts the negative visions. She told you about her past because she loved you and wished to make everything clear.

Devote your thoughts to the present and the future.

You said she also loved you and wanted to marry you. That means she holds you dearly. She told you about her past because she wanted to be honest with you and ease her conscience about what happened.

The past is past. You were not in her life then. Live for the future, live each day to the fullest. Continue being the man she loves and admires. After all, you enjoy being with her. Make sure to make her happy when she is with you.

Two sides to every coin

I READ about the couple disagreeing with your kind of advice. Although I do not regularly read your column, your tactfulness and sincerity are very admirable. I respect you for standing by your conviction. I remember saying this to a friend: "Time is constantly changing because of the technology but it doesn't mean values will follow suit." Values will never be outdated.

The saying "You cannot please everybody" is true. There are those who ask for advice, but reject what they hear when it contradicts their expectation. On the flip side, there are those who respect your sound judgment, get nuggets of wisdom and later reap the benefit.

Let me tell you this, those three people are outweighed by those who truly appreciate you. You have been a blessing to others for easing their burden.

God bless, and I hope to meet you.

CATHY HIZO

Thank you for your considerate letter. I printed the letter of that couple because I respect freedom of expression.

As a matter of fact, through the past years, countless readers have written to thank me, not just for answering them, but also to express appreciation for what they learned from this column.

Another reader, Rita, also immediately wrote this short message: "Hi, Tita, your column has always been a source of inspiration for me because it is always 'motherly' and never judgmental."

Many will surely write me also, but I'm afraid I won't be able to quote them here, to give space for more problems. But I will be answering all of them.

Without...

zero g

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Our bottle is so advanced, it brings feeding to a whole new level.

We just developed an advanced feeding bottle. Now we need your little suckers to try it. Introducing the Evenflo Elite.

An ingenious innovation to complement the wonders of breastfeeding. While mothers can't always enjoy this special time with her child, pumping breast milk is the next best thing. So we created a bottle for a smooth transition, which can meet your child's needs.

Unlike other nipples, Evenflo Elite has a gentle sloping shape, allowing your child to latch on comfortably. What's more, the Evenflo Elite has a nipple that reacts to your child's suckling. Made from soft and flexible silicone, it adjusts to your child's pressure while feeding so it can give out just the right amount of liquid.

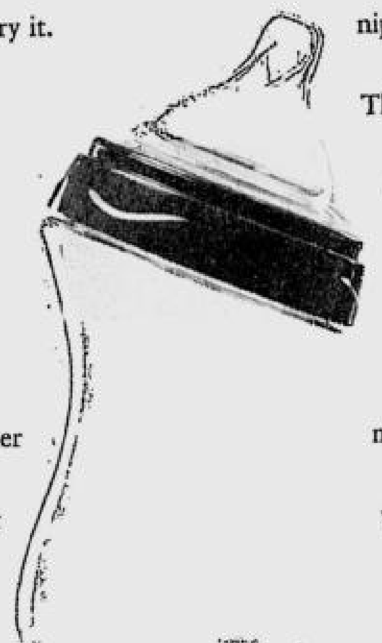
We even thought about your child's age. Our nipples are made with different flow capabilities. There's the "slow flow", the "medium flow" and the "fast flow". It's an innovation that gives the right flow based on your child's age and feeding needs. And what about the nipple cover? Its unique shape features an inner wall that creates a barrier to help keep the nipple clean at all times. Plus, our nipple cover comes with ventilation holes that circulates air evenly.

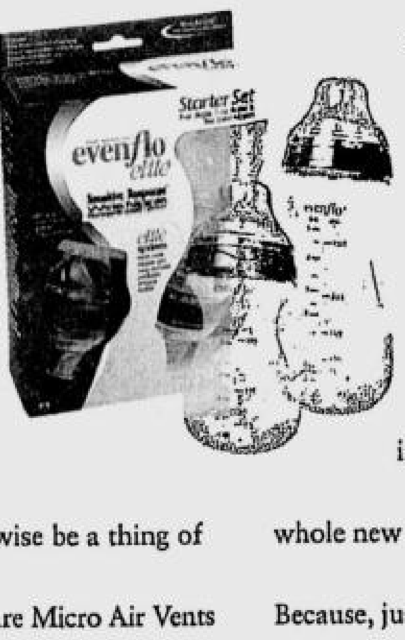
Cholic problems will likewise be a thing of the past. Directly under the nipple are Micro Air Vents which keep air from your child's tummy. These vents allow air to return to the bottle preventing nipple collapse and greatly reducing cholic pains. Not to mention sleepless hours.

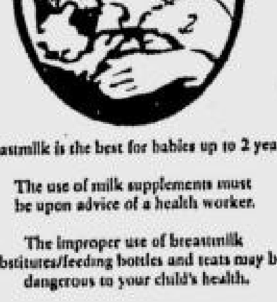
And while other bottles are stuck with an upright design, Evenflo Elite's unusual form serves a significant purpose. Its pediatric angled bottle helps keep the nipple filled to reduce air intake and promotes semi-upright feeding. This lessens the chances of inner ear infection. Plus, its wide opening and ergonomic shape makes for easy handling and cleaning.

This obsession with detail and innovation drives us to bring feeding to a whole new level.

Because, just like your child, we are also suckers for the best.







Breastmilk is the best for babies up to 2 years.

The use of milk supplements must be upon advice of a health worker.

The improper use of breastmilk substitutes/feeding bottles and teats may be dangerous to your child's health.

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"MY OFFICIAL I-WITNESS WEAR." All girl in dark denim jeans, lemon yellow long-sleeve Kamiseta shirt and a red Escada jacket with hood. Leather pumps complete the look.

No-fuss Vicky

The network celebrity's style runs the gamut from strict formals to loose casuals

From page D1

a designer person. "All the designer stuff in my closet was given by my husband (lawyer King Reyno) he likes to buy me those things for special occasions," she says.

Partial to solid and bright colors, Vicky also has a passion for things white. "You can never have too many white blouses," she explains. Her dusky complexion also looks even more appealing in white and bright colors.

Well-heeled

Shoes and scarves are also a staple in Vicky's closet. "I've been wearing heels since seventh grade!" she laughs. "Somehow the heels kick up your posture and you walk more gracefully. But on shoots, I wear sneakers or flats depending on where I'm going," she adds.

Her scarf collection is quite awesome. "When I started doing the news, I had three jackets and 50 scarves! Scarves somehow dress up the outfit. But nowadays I've set them aside and use brooches instead to jazz up a jacket."

Vicky describes her shopping style as always accidental. "I'm never deliberate, it's always purely by accident when I buy a piece, but I'm also not an impulse shopper," she explains. When Vicky finds something she likes and it comes in various hues, she usually gets three or four of the same kind. "It's a great plus, when you get it on sale," she says.

Not partial to any local or foreign brands, she has clothes from Kamiseta, Michi Calica, Escada ("from my husband") and low-key Italian labels. However, she always makes a trip to Petite Sophisticate whenever she finds herself in the US. "They have a great selection of short jackets—just right for me! And their clothes really fit me so well," she says.

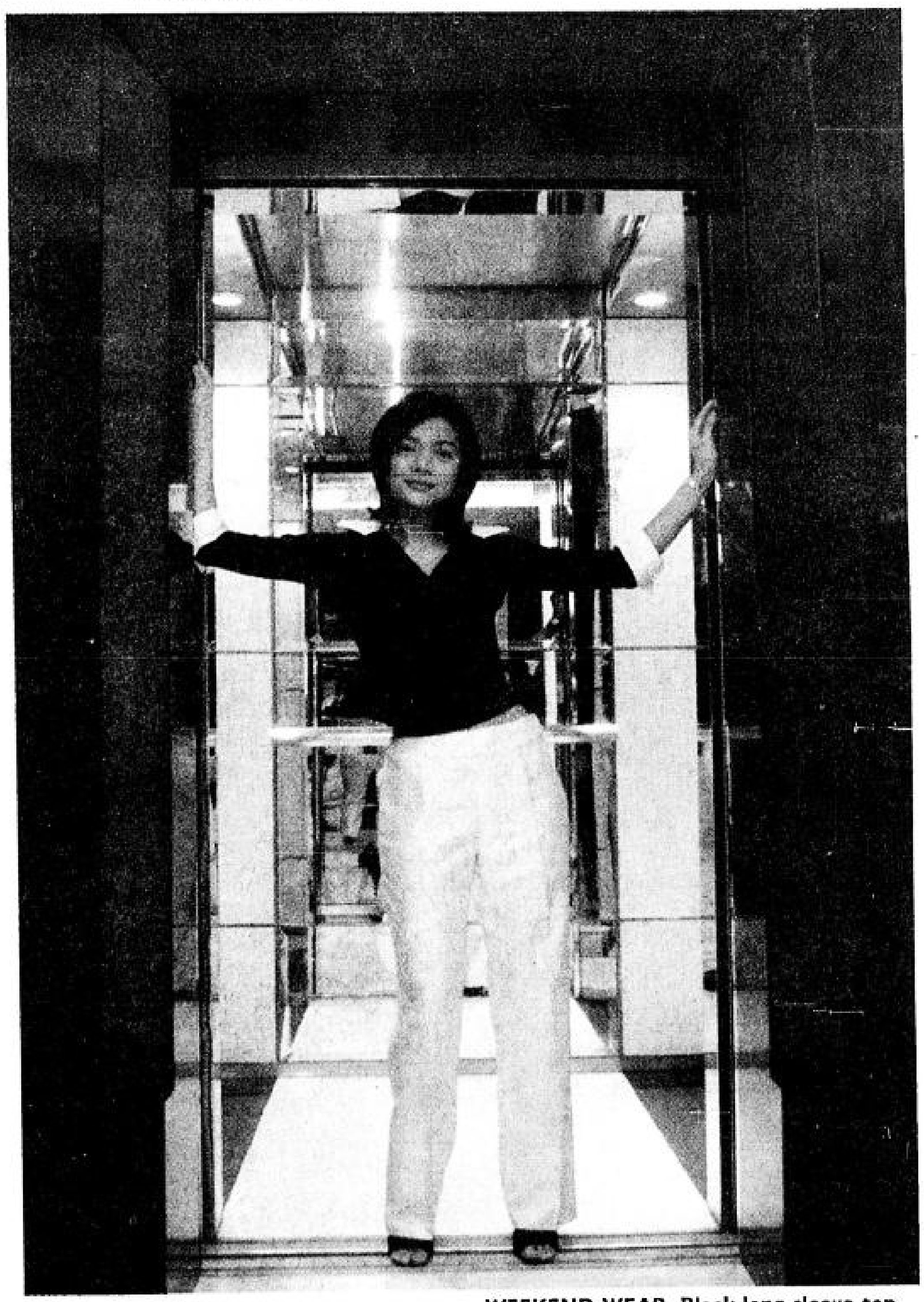
Vicky, who shuns pork totally and veers away from beef, is a very slim size 2. "My work is basically my workout," she replies when asked if she exercises at all. "There are times when I forget to eat because I'm so engrossed writing or editing or shooting. But I snack all day long!"

Brand loyalty

Makeup is where Vicky has brand loyalty, and she swears by Kanebo and Shu Uemura. "The Japanese brands really suit my skin so they are the ones that I've been using for years," she says. She's blessed with exceptionally good skin and her routine is no-fuss : it's Cetaphil for washing her face and Clarins for removing makeup and moisturizing. In her bag, her must-have items are a pink Tony and Tina lipstick and face powder by Kanebo.

Vicky has that chameleon-like quality that allows the clothes she wears become her like a second skin. In one moment she looks vampy in a sexy gown, the next minute she looks like a fresh-faced schoolgirl in a red parka. Clearly, Vicky's sense of style, is like her stories: simple and straightforward; it runs the gamut from daring to heartwarming.

Email the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



WEEKEND WEAR. Black long-sleeve top from South Africa and white linen slacks by Dolce E Vita

SULTRY. In a white bustier gown by Michi Calica

ROOM WITH A VIEW. Black sleeveless top over black slacks by Dolce E Vita

Trendy with a classic touch

TIE-neck vest, spotty dog cardigan, cord pants hoop and suede belt, and bottom fringe suede bag

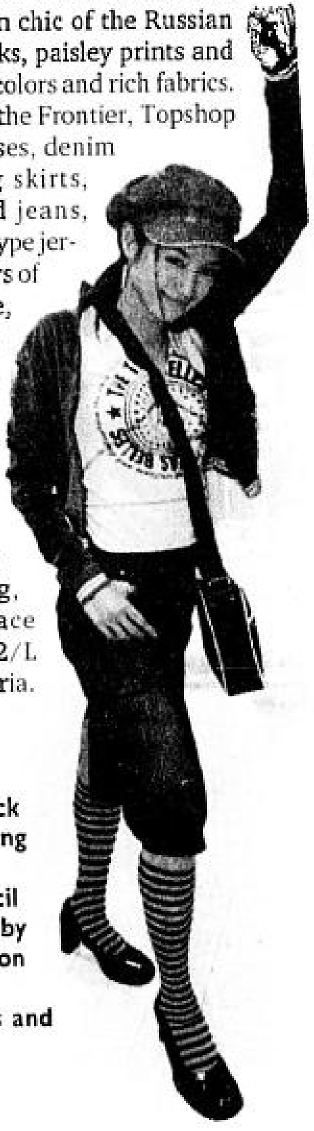
BIB Mandarin top, dolphin pinstripe jaket, ria pencil denim skirt and basic club bag in fuchsia

TOPSHOP'S 2002 Autumn/Winter collection features styles, fabrics, cuts and influences that are easy to incorporate into any wardrobe.

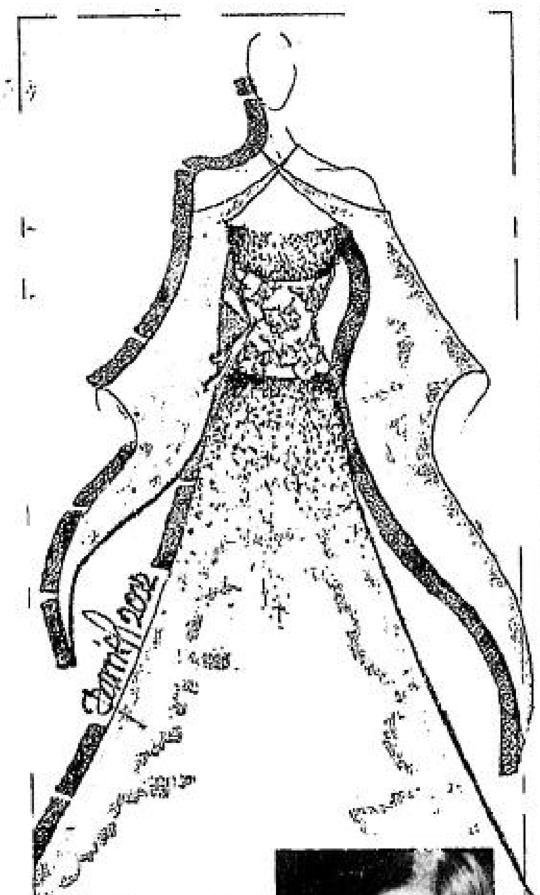
The collection harks back to the '70s with jersey zip front sweats, striped knits, vintage shirts, velour track suits and casual jackets in navy, red, cobalt, purple, burnt orange and plum. The Oriental-inspired Club Kimono has satin-wrapped blouses, dresses, embroidered corsets and obi belts and the Eastern European chic of the Russian look with Cossacks, paisley prints and brocades in bold colors and rich fabrics.

For a touch of the Frontier, Topshop offers prim blouses, denim tiered and long skirts, patchwork cord jeans, and underwear-type jersey in warm colors of cream, tan, beige, stone, orange, and in floral prints.

Check out Topshop's Autumn/Winter collection at the 2/L Padre Faura Wing, Robinsons Place Manila, and 2/L Robinsons Galleria.



YELLOW flatlock motif top, tipping velour zipthru jacket, ria pencil denim skirt, baby flight bag, cotton Donovan cap, overknee socks and sherbet shoes



RAISSA Angeli Lacson, daughter of Rei and Dolly Lacson, will celebrate her 18th birthday tomorrow at the ballroom of Mandarin Oriental Hotel. The debutante will wear a gossamer gown of turquoise silk chiffon encrusted with crystals and beads, featuring an embroidered corset with a butterfly motif. The detachable butterfly sleeves are to be worn in the cotillion de honor. The gown was designed and executed by Parrish Espiritu Carlos.

Weight.

zero g

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* Only receipts dated Sept. 13-20 will be honored

Schedule of Activities:

Moose Gear Meet & Greet
Sept. 14 - Robinsons Galleria
Sept. 21 - Robinsons Place Manila
Sept. 27 - Robinsons Metro East
Event starts at 3:30 p.m.

Free Face Tattoo*
Sept. 15 - Robinsons Galleria and
Robinsons Place Manila
* with every purchase of any
Disney item

Magic Show sponsored by Pengo
Sept. 14 - Robinsons Place Manila
Sept. 21 - Robinsons Metro East
Sept. 22 - Robinsons Galleria
Show starts at 3:00 p.m.

Cookie Monster and Miffy
Meet & Greet
Sept. 21 - Robinsons Galleria
Sept. 27 - Robinsons Place Manila
Event starts at 3:00 p.m.

See mechanics posters and flyers
for details of the raffle promo.

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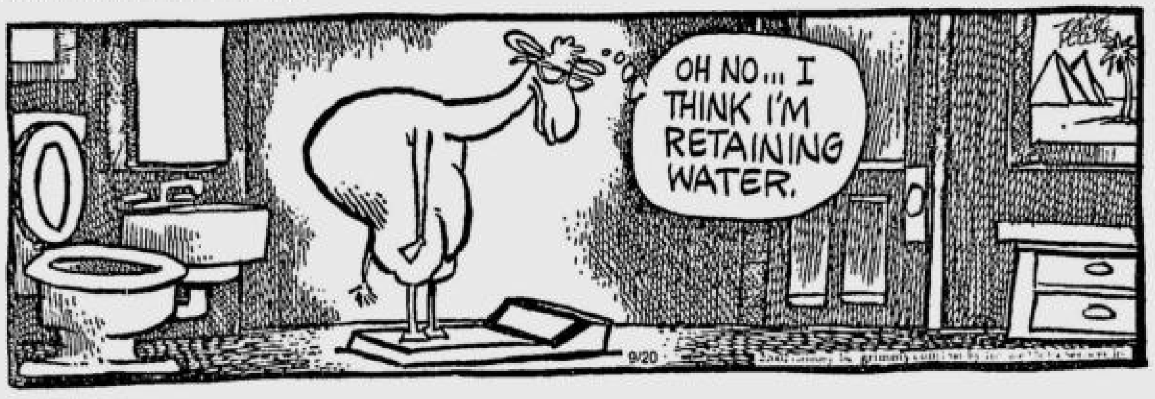
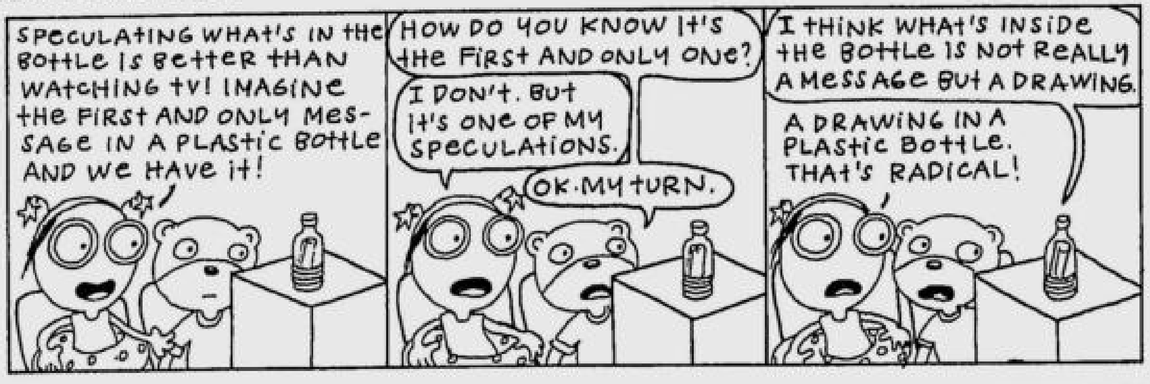
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OH NO... I THINK I'M RETAINING WATER.
9/20

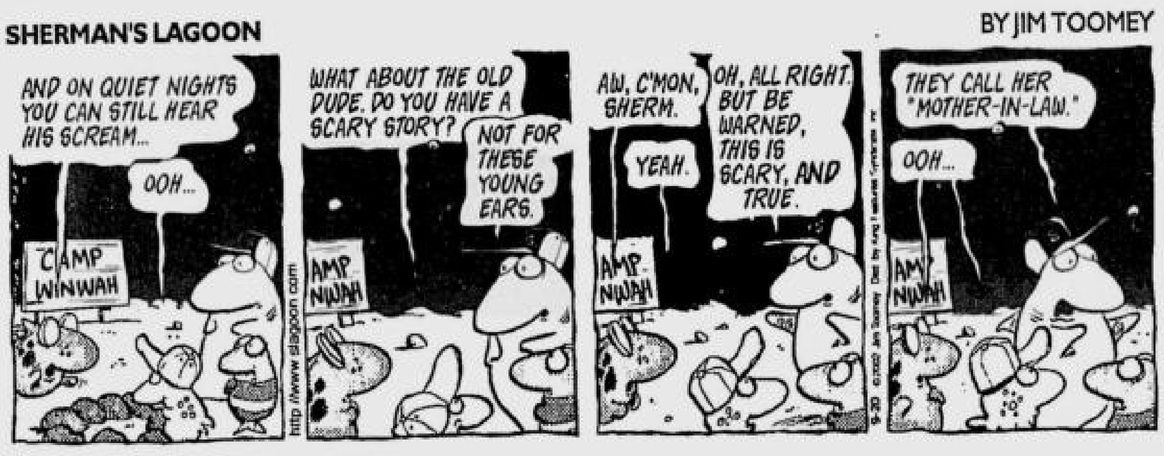
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SPECULATING WHAT'S IN THE BOTTLE IS BETTER THAN WATCHING TV! IMAGINE THE FIRST AND ONLY MESSAGE IN A PLASTIC BOTTLE AND WE HAVE IT!
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S THE FIRST AND ONLY ONE?
I DON'T. BUT IT'S ONE OF MY SPECULATIONS.
OK. MY TURN.
I THINK WHAT'S INSIDE THE BOTTLE IS NOT REALLY A MESSAGE BUT A DRAWING.
A DRAWING IN A PLASTIC BOTTLE. THAT'S RADICAL!

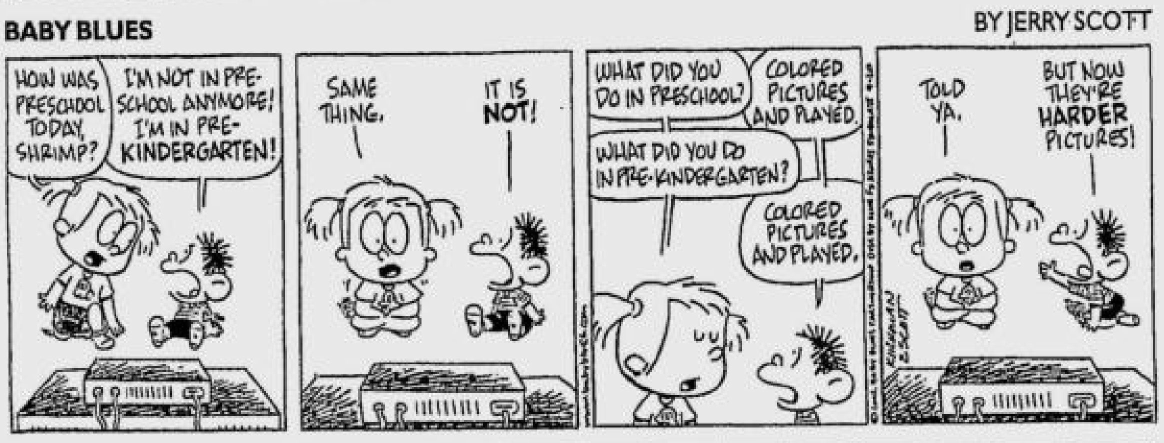
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


AND ON QUIET NIGHTS YOU CAN STILL HEAR HIS SCREAM...
OOH...
CAMP WINWAH
WHAT ABOUT THE OLD DUDE. DO YOU HAVE A SCARY STORY?
NOT FOR THESE YOUNG EARS.
AW, C'MON, SHERM.
YEAH.
OH, ALL RIGHT. BUT BE WARNED, THIS IS SCARY, AND TRUE.
THEY CALL HER "MOTHER-IN-LAW."
OOH...
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW WAS PRESCHOOL TODAY, SHRIMP?
I'M NOT IN PRESCHOOL ANYMORE! I'M IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN!
SAME THING.
IT IS NOT!
WHAT DID YOU DO IN PRESCHOOL?
COLORED PICTURES AND PLAYED.
WHAT DID YOU DO IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN?
COLORED PICTURES AND PLAYED.
TOLD YA.
BUT NOW THEY'RE HARDER PICTURES!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anne Meara, Sophia Loren, Matthew and Gunnar Nelson

Happy Birthday: This can be a highly romantic and creative year if you take the time to develop your talents or nurture your relationship. Although you may find yourself working hard, the payoff will be worth it. Strive to reach your goals and this time next year you will be glad that you put in all the time and effort. Your numbers are 8, 13, 19, 24, 31, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Dealing with an authority figure could prove to be difficult today. Stay out of trouble. Make sure you get your job done quickly and efficiently so you don't have to deal with any criticism.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Children will play a major role in your life whether or not you have any. Get involved in the events that youngsters are participating in and you'll be surprised who you will meet.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This is not the day to start open communications with a loved one or, for that matter, with anyone. Keep your thoughts to yourself and let others do as they please. A creative outlet will be a necessity.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your growing interest in philosophy and history will spark a desire to travel and see things firsthand. Talk to someone who is a seasoned traveler.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This isn't the day to be lazy and put things aside, especially when it comes to your own personal paperwork. Make sure that you have everything in order. Take a little time to help an older relative.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This will be a highly emotional and sensitive day, especially if you are in love. Don't let anyone at work put demands on you that will cause trouble at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will have a creative flare today that will spark enthusiasm in your peers as well as bring new meaning to your work. Your extra efforts will be appreciated by others. Start a new regime to get back into shape.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will find yourself involved in a passionate encounter if you get out and socialize. Keep in mind that if you are already attached, you must weigh the pros and cons before you do something you might regret.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't expect everyone to be on your side today. Problems with family members will escalate if you try to evade issues that need to be dealt with. Face the music; you'll feel much better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll have all sorts of interesting talks with friends, neighbors and relatives. The things you discover will help you understand yourself better. You should be able to put things in perspective.

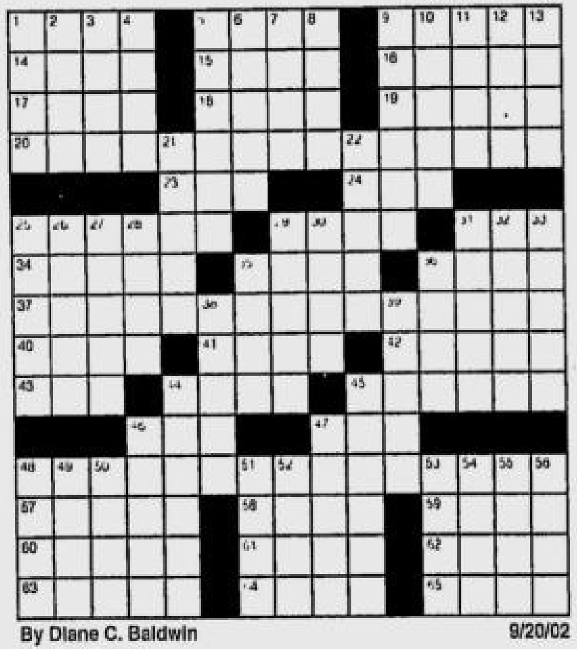
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Creative ideas will surface and you should be able to use your ingenuity to move forward. Be careful not to let someone slow you down or lead you astray with empty promises.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are likely to take things the wrong way if you don't listen. Don't be too quick to judge others. You need to follow your own needs and directions.

Birthday Baby: You will be intuitive and creative with the initiative and discipline to finish whatever you start. You will be powerful, engaging and willing to go the extra mile.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

9/20/02

ACROSS
1 Letter opening, often
5 Frankenstein's helper
9 English homework
14 Pleasant
15 Genesis boatbuilder
16 One of the strings
17 Ages and ages and ages
18 Folk wisdom
19 Marcus or Woody
20 Football trio
23 Wool producer
24 Positive reply
25 Cowboys' home
29 Merge
31 Silent assent
34 Where lovers walk?
35 Missile housing
36 Slimy stuff
37 Racing trio
40 Lays down the lawn
41 City on the Rhine
42 Exclusively
43 Printer's measures
44 Jabbers
45 Put away gear
46 Sopping
47 Old French coin
48 Tennis trio
57 German sub
58 Retired for the night
59 Kangaroo kid
60 Chutzpah
61 Skedaddle
62 Long in the tooth
63 Take the helm
64 Small gull
65 Pastel shade

DOWN
1 [illegible]
2 Stead
3 Computer graphic
4 Bedouin home
5 Kin through marriage
6 Silly fowl
7 Rowboat needs
8 Flightless bird
9 Sidestepped
10 Jockey's attire
11 Diva's performances
12 McCowen or Baldwin
13 Jerk
21 Oyster find
22 Hose material
25 Use a divining rod
26 Negative particle
27 Touches down
28 Rims
29 Bearings
30 Panache
31 Not in any way
32 Ultraviolet filter
33 Beaded with moisture
35 Garbage boat
36 Norway capital
38 Moderate
39 Bit of info
44 Clown of the court
45 Waterlogged
46 Use a shuttle
47 Haughty gaze
48 Six-shooters
49 Help with a heist
50 Extra
51 Roosevelt's successor
52 Up to the job
53 Partly open
54 Like some fast-food orders
55 So-so grades
56 Jekyll's alter ego

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

B	O	S	C	■	P	E	C	A	N	■	M	I	N	T
U	N	T	O	■	A	D	A	G	E	■	O	D	I	E
S	M	A	L	L	T	I	M	E	C	R	O	O	K	S
H	E	R	O	I	C	S	■	S	K	I	L	L	E	T
■	■	■	N	O	H	O	W	■	S	P	A	■	■	■
S	A	T	I	N	■	N	E	B	■	S	H	O	W	Y
A	M	U	S	E	D	■	L	A	M	■	■	B	R	O
L	I	T	T	L	E	B	L	A	C	K	B	O	O	K
E	G	O	■	■	N	A	P	■	D	E	L	E	T	E
M	O	R	N	S	■	Y	U	L	■	E	A	S	E	L
■	■	■	O	N	S	■	T	A	M	P	S	■	■	■
R	I	O	T	O	U	S	■	R	O	U	T	I	N	E
I	T	S	Y	B	I	T	S	Y	S	P	I	D	E	R
B	A	S	E	■	T	E	R	N	S	■	N	E	A	R
S	L	A	T	■	E	P	O	X	Y	■	G	A	P	S

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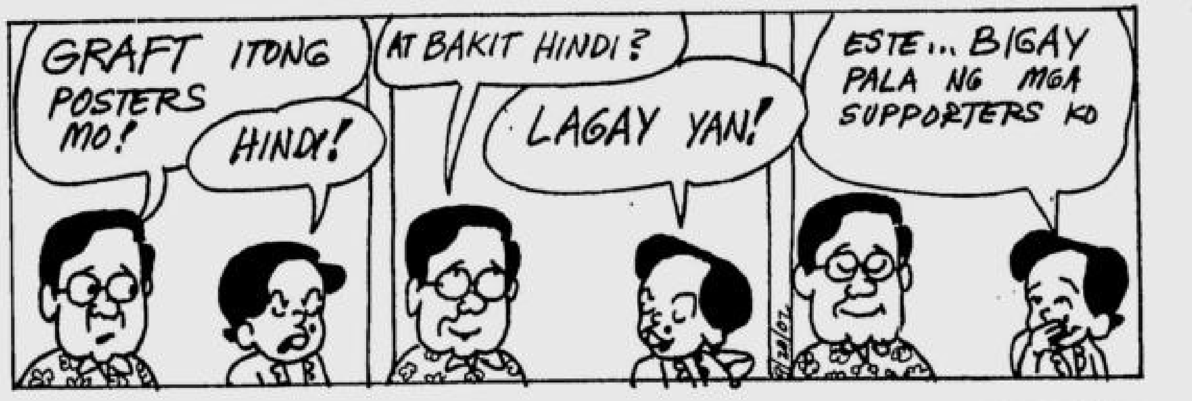
9/20/02

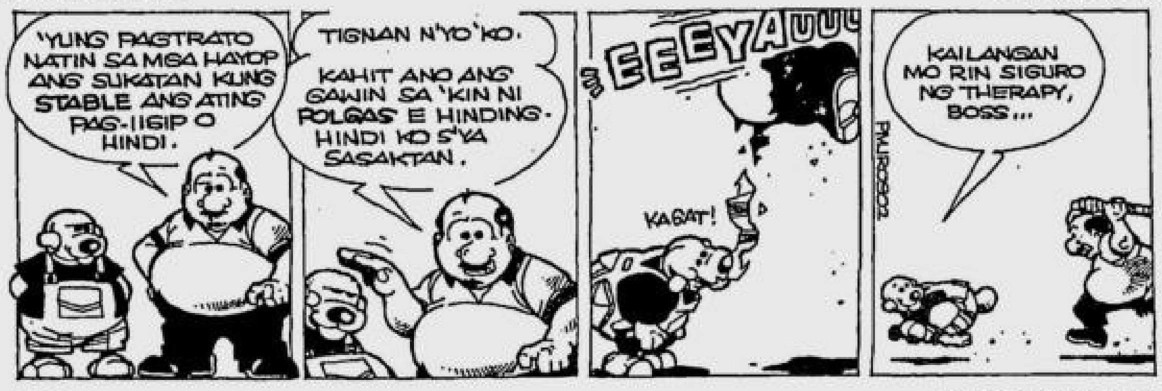
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GRAFT ITONG POSTERS MO!
HINDI!
AT BAKIT HINDI?
LAGAY YAN!
ESTE... BIGAY PALA NG MGA SUPPORTERS KO

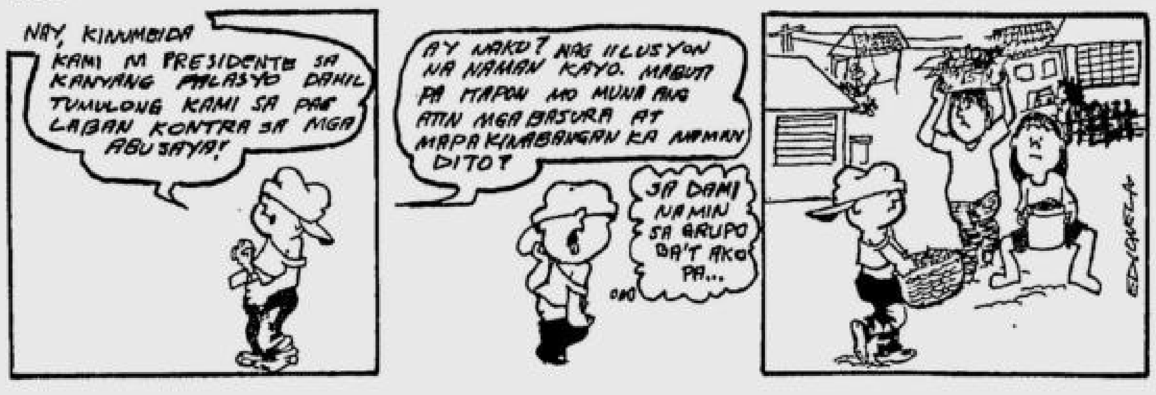
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


'YUNG PAGTRATO NATIN SA MGA HAYOP ANG SUKATAN KUNG STABLE ANG ATING PAG-IISIP O HINDI.
TIGNAN N'YO 'KO. KAHIT ANO ANG GAWIN SA 'KIN NI POLGAS E HINDING-HINDI KO S'YA SASAKTAN.
EEEYAUUU
KAGAT!
KAILANGAN MO RIN SIGURO NG THERAPY, BOSS...

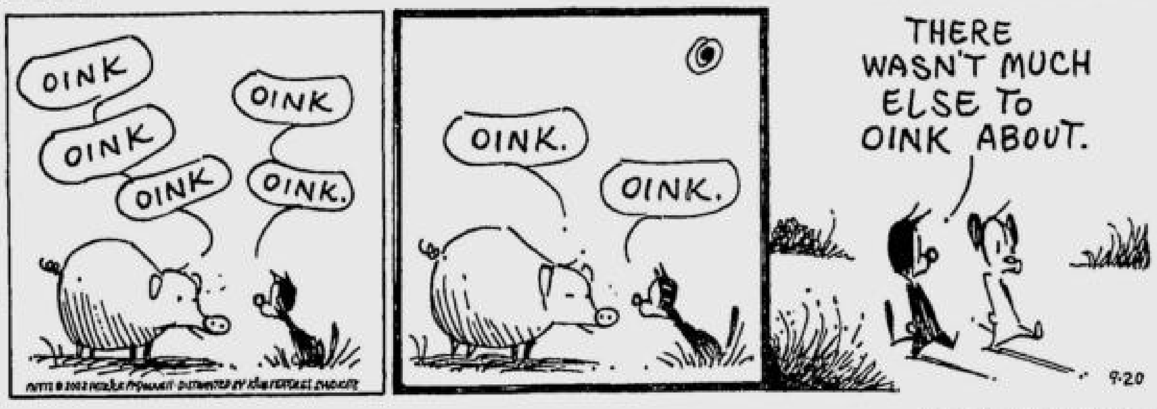
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY, KINAMBIDA KAMI NI PRESIDENTE SA KANYANG PALASYO DAHIL TUMULONG KAMI SA PAG LABAN KONTRA SA MGA ABU SAYYAF!
AY NAKU? NAG ILUSYON NA NAMAN KAYO. MABUTI PA ITAPON MO MUNA ANG ATIN MGA BASURA AT MAPAKINABANGAN KA NAMAN DITO?
SA DAMI NAMIN SA GRUPO BA'T AKO PA...
EDGAR

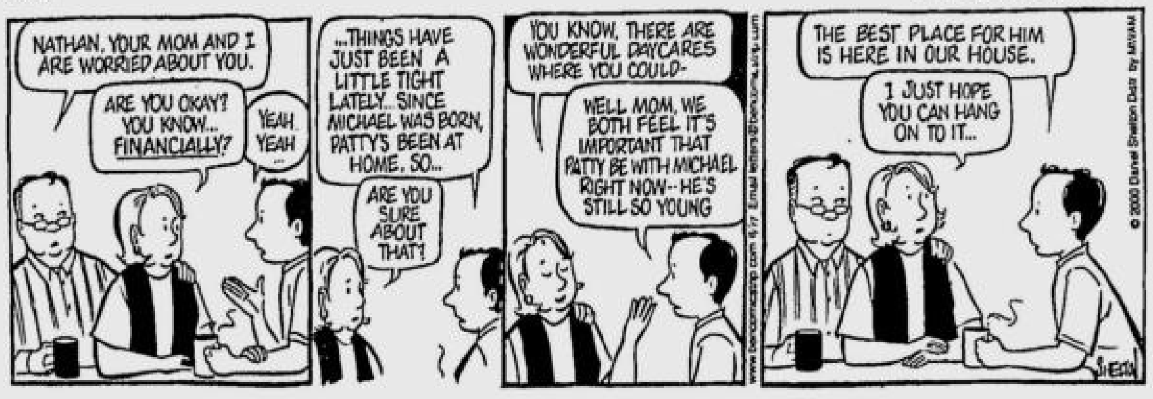
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OINK
OINK
OINK
OINK
OINK.
OINK.
OINK.
THERE WASN'T MUCH ELSE TO OINK ABOUT.
9-20

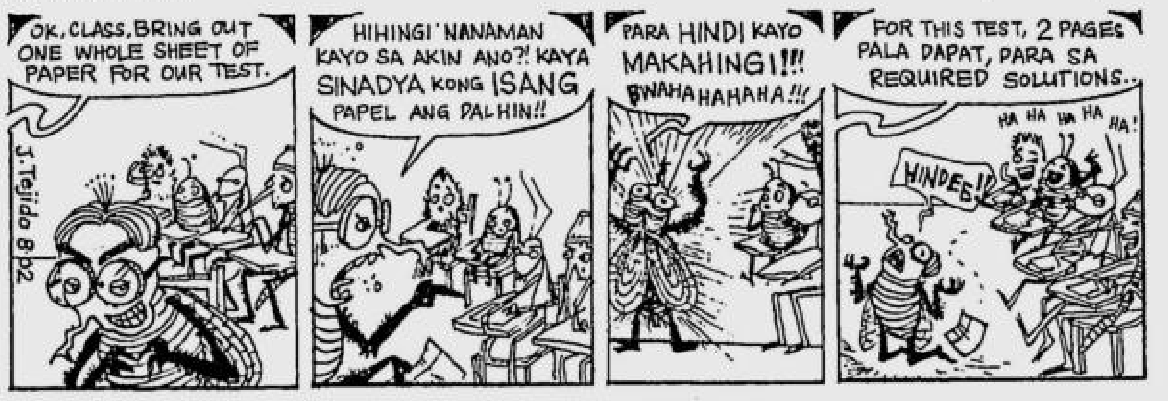
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NATHAN, YOUR MOM AND I ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU KNOW... FINANCIALLY?
YEAH YEAH ...
...THINGS HAVE JUST BEEN A LITTLE TIGHT LATELY.. SINCE MICHAEL WAS BORN, PATTY'S BEEN AT HOME, SO...
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
YOU KNOW, THERE ARE WONDERFUL DAYCARES WHERE YOU COULD-
WELL MOM, WE BOTH FEEL IT'S IMPORTANT THAT PATTY BE WITH MICHAEL RIGHT NOW-- HE'S STILL SO YOUNG
THE BEST PLACE FOR HIM IS HERE IN OUR HOUSE.
I JUST HOPE YOU CAN HANG ON TO IT...

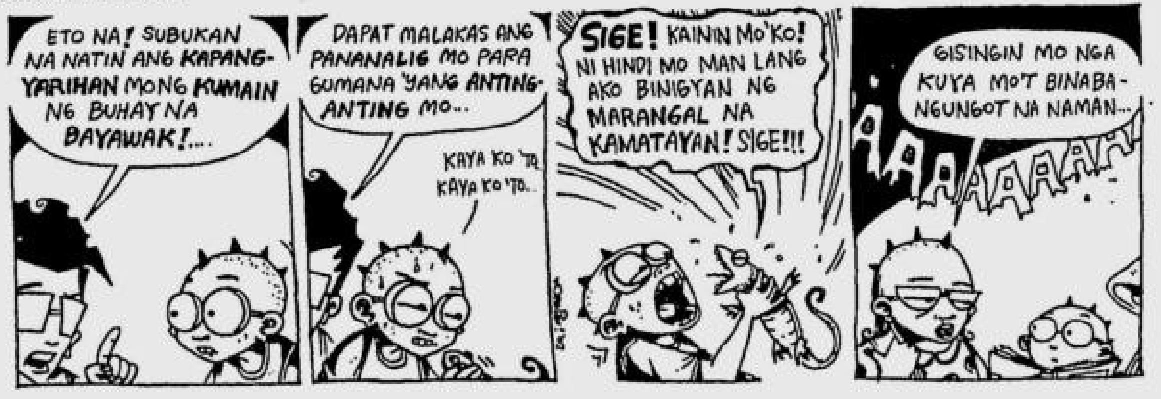
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


OK, CLASS, BRING OUT ONE WHOLE SHEET OF PAPER FOR OUR TEST.
J. Tejido 8.02
HIHINGI' NANAMAN KAYO SA AKIN ANO?! KAYA SINADYA KONG ISANG PAPEL ANG DALHIN!!
PARA HINDI KAYO MAKAHINGI!!! BWAHAHAHAHA!!!
FOR THIS TEST, 2 PAGES PALA DAPAT, PARA SA REQUIRED SOLUTIONS..
HA HA HA HA HA!
HINDEE!!

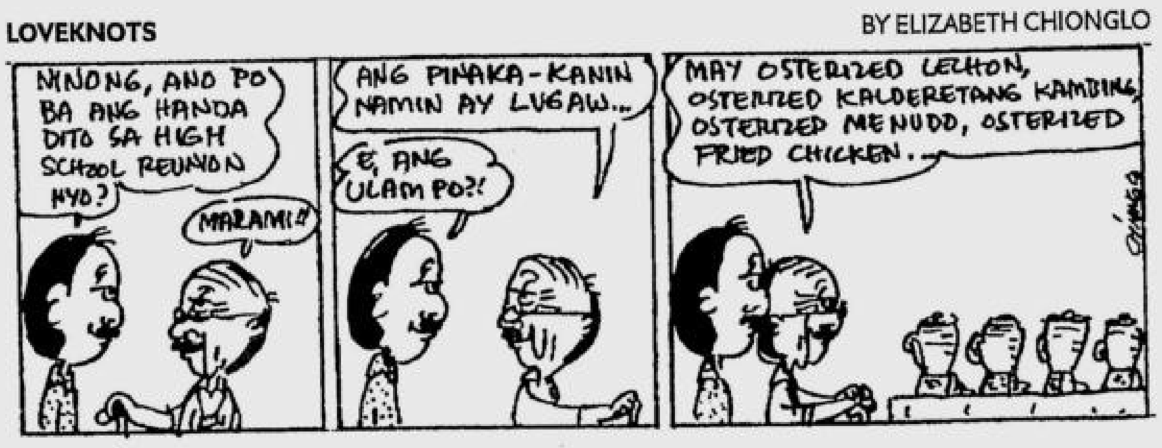
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ETO NA! SUBUKAN NA NATIN ANG KAPANGYARIHAN MONG KUMAIN NG BUHAY NA BAYAWAK!...
DAPAT MALAKAS ANG PANANALIG MO PARA GUMANA 'YANG ANTING-ANTING MO..
KAYA KO 'TO. KAYA KO 'TO..
SIGE! KAININ MO 'KO! NI HINDI MO MAN LANG AKO BINIGYAN NG MARANGAL NA KAMATAYAN! SIGE!!!
GISINGIN MO NGA KUYA MO'T BINABANGUNGOT NA NAMAN...
AAAAAAAAAH

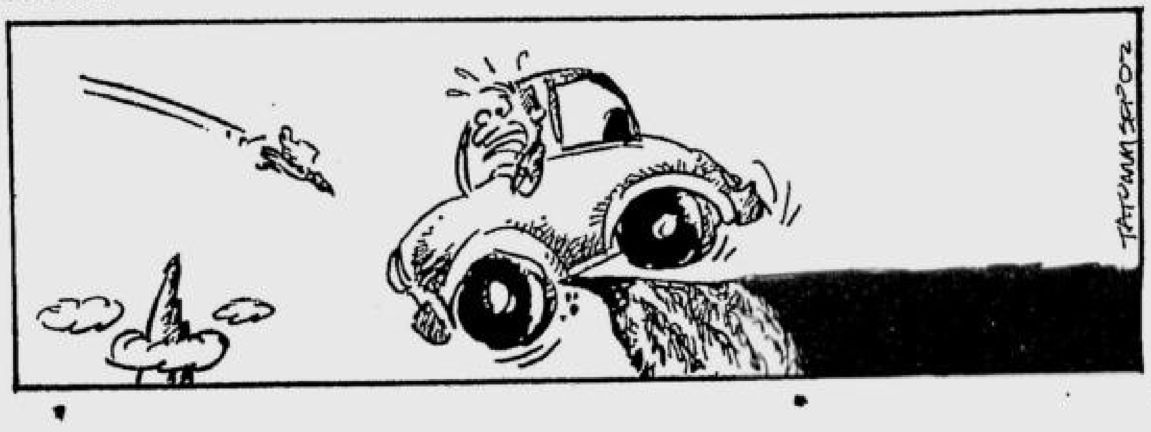
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NINONG, ANO PO BA ANG HANDA DITO SA HIGH SCHOOL REUNION NYO?
MARAMI!!
ANG PINAKA-KANIN NAMIN AY LUGAW...
E, ANG ULAM PO?!
MAY OSTERIZED LECHON, OSTERIZED KALDERETANG KAMBING, OSTERIZED MENUDO, OSTERIZED FRIED CHICKEN..

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TATUM SEP 02

La Salle pep squad typifies jean-loving generation

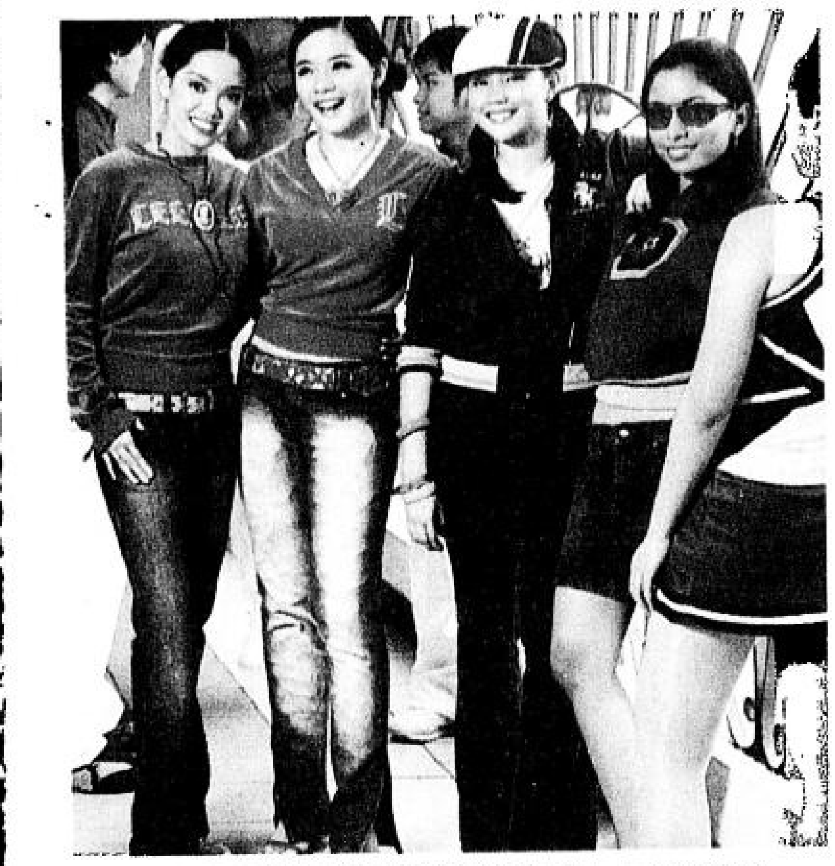
THE DE La Salle University (DLSU) Pep Squad, with its youthful exuberance and confidence, typifies the spirit behind the hip brand Lee Denim USA.

With a champion team to root for, the group is constantly looking for ways to keep its spirit and enthusiasm high.

Members of the DLSU pep squad are hardworking, driven and focused. They practice four hours a day. Aside from the physical rigors of their drills, members also engage in variety of activities, such as weight training, dragon boat racing, bowling and basketball.

Their skills are tested in every game of the DLSU team, when they have to help keep the players' morale high with their cheering.

The combination of youthful exuberance and confidence shown by De La Salle University Pep Squad's is what Lee Denim USA's "Fit In, Stand Out" mantra for today's jean-loving generation is all about. Slinky and sporty, pert and sassy, the Lee Varsity collection is casual wear that's chic and hip. It embodies the free-spirited campus life. Like the DLSU Pep Squad, Lee means street fashion with tons of attitude and the winning vibe.



STAND OUT IN VARSITY COLLECTION. Abbey and Kriska dress up in velour sweaters paired with low-rise, all washed-up denim jeans. Maan's low-rise denim jeans is perfectly topped with a Lee training jacket; on April is a velour sweater paired with low-rise denim skirt.

Orientation for US-bound teachers

JS Contractor Inc. (JSC) and Texas-based Omni Consortium Inc./Multicultural Professional Limited Liability Co. invite Filipino teachers to take the Functional Academic Skills Test, one of several qualifying examinations for United States professional educators, in Manila and Cebu this October. Texas alone is reportedly recruiting 800 Filipino teachers. Applicants can attend orientation sessions 9 a.m., Sept. 21-22, at JSC in Manila. Call 527-5536 and 301-0008 or visit JS Contractor Bldg., 423 Magallanes St., Intramuros, Manila. For Cebu, call 254-6145 or 255-4330. Orientations will be held at 1 p.m., Sept. 28-29, at the Social Hall of the Capitol Building.

Goings On

CRAFTS WORKSHOP. Yalan Trade presents international floral designer Phubast "Poo" Chesdmethee of Thailand in a workshop on making your own holiday decorations 2 p.m. tomorrow at the AEK Bldg II, 40 E. Rodriguez Avenue, QC. The workshop is open to the public. The Floral Arts and Crafts Design Center will also showcase various holiday table settings on Sept. 28. Call 732-1942 or 732-1954.

PARENTING WORKSHOP. Metro Mom will have its monthly parenting workshop tomorrow, 9 a.m. at the Training Center, 13/F ELJ Corporate Communications Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Mother Ignacia St., QC. The workshop is on "Effective Discipline" and will be conducted by Dr. Lourdes Carandang. Call 631-3121 or 637-1959.

EXHIBIT. Roland de los Santos is holding his third solo exhibition titled "Flowers, Fruits and Antiques II" until Sept. 24 at Gallery 139, 4/L SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. De los Santos has several international collectors and was named by the late National Artist Vicente Manansala, along with Jun Tiongco, as Tanay's two outstanding artists in 1978.

LAUNCHING. Nelia T. Gonzalez, former assistant secretary of the Department of Agriculture and a pioneer in the agribusiness sector, will inaugurate the Women in Development Series, a new publication of the Seamed Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture that focuses on the lives of women who have made their mark in development work. Her biography, "Nelia T. Gonzalez: The Woman, Her Life, Her Legacy," will be launched Sept. 25, 5 p.m., at the Discovery Suites, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center.

HOMECOMING. With the theme "Looking Back, Moving Forward," the University of the East Alumni Association Inc. invites all UE (Manila and Caloocan campuses) graduates to the UE Homecoming 2002 on Sept. 28, 4 p.m., at the Manila campus. Call 735-8557/5471 local 310 and 381 or 735-8562.

BAZAAR. Market at the Plaza is ongoing until Sept. 29, at the plaza of Power Plant Mall. The bazaar showcases various products that are zoned per category. It is open 11 a.m.-11 p.m. on weekdays and until 12 mn on weekends. The event is organized by PLA Events Planner. Call 688-4501 or 438-9352.

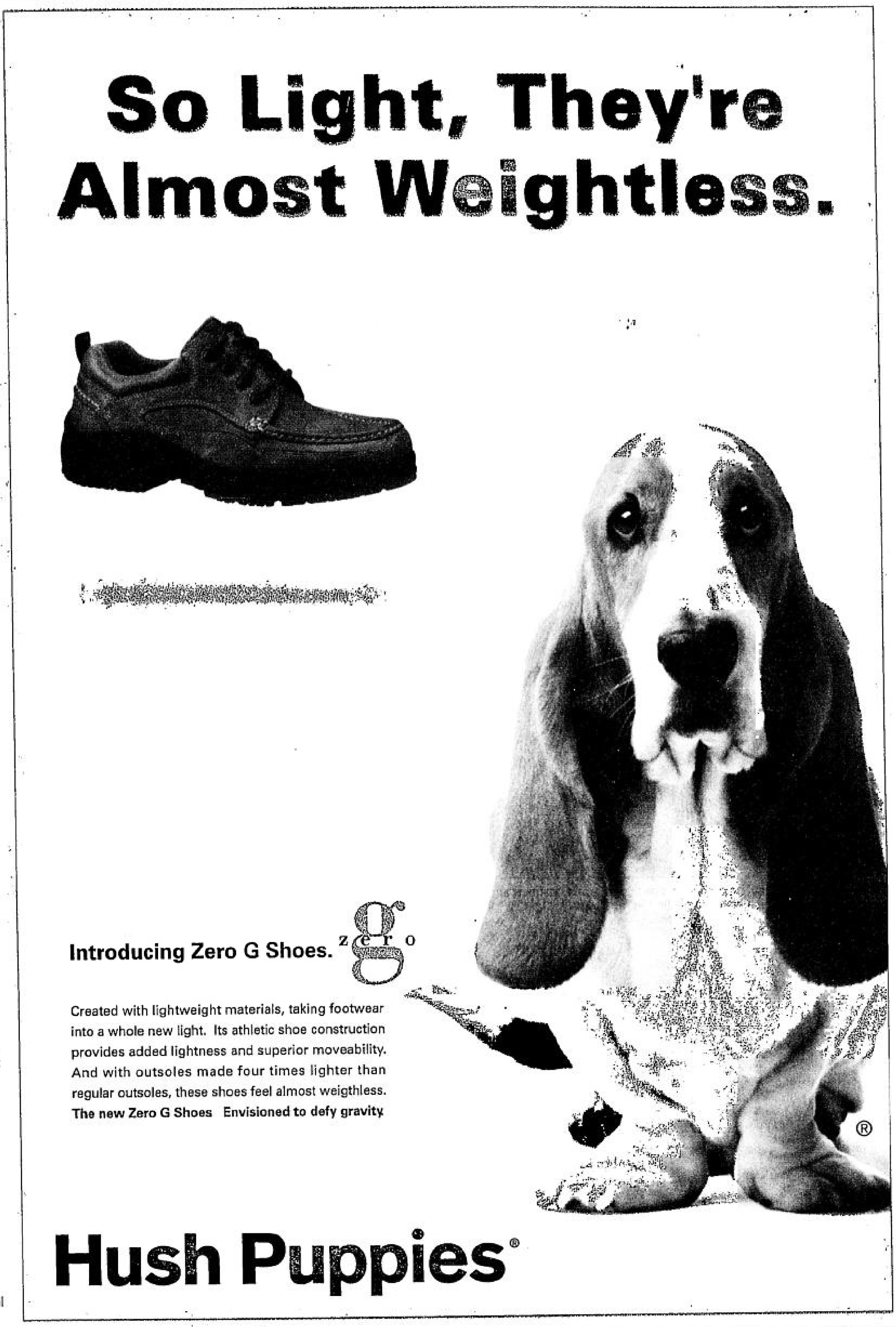
PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. will hold a basic and advanced photo seminar starting Sept. 29. The basic course will be held for four Sundays while the advanced, six Sundays. Lecturers are multiawarded and veteran photographers Vic Sison, Ador Pamintuan, Prof. Cecilia Angeles and Tony Raval. Visit FPPF at 7/F Comfoods Building, corner Sen. Gil Puyat and Chino Roces Avenues, Makati City, or call 843-5341 or 813-7420.

PHOTO CONTEST. In line with National Tourism Week, the Intramuros Administration and the Federation of Philippine Photographers will exhibit entries to the Intramuros on-the-spot photo competition for college students, Sept. 24-Oct. 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Baluarte de Sta. Barbara, Fort Santiago, Intramuros. Call 527-2961/3138.

TRADE FAIR. Robinsons Movieworld, with Columbia Pictures, stages a series of activities in connection with the forthcoming screening of "Enough," an action-packed psycho thriller starring Jennifer Lopez with Billy Campbell and Juliette Lewis. A trade fair/exhibit is ongoing until Oct. 2 at the cinema lobbies of Robinsons Movieworld in Galleria and Metro East. On display are the latest in cosmetics and beauty products and fashion apparel. Fitness products and health services are also part of this exhibit. An interesting sidebar event is a fashion show cum self-defense demonstration.

LECTURE. A series of lectures on animated filmmaking will be held at the Negros Museum Oct. 7-26. Artists, students, professionals and animation enthusiasts are invited to participate in the first "Bacolod Animation Workshop 2002." Applications are accepted until Sept. 27. Call (034) 434-5552.

WORKSHOP. The Ateneo Institute for Literary Arts and Practices is now accepting applications for the third Ateneo National-Writers Workshop on Oct. 21-26. Deadline of submission of entries is on Sept. 23. Entries must be addressed to: Dr. Benilda S. Santos, director, Ateneo National Writers Workshop, c/o the Filipino Department, Loyola School of Humanities, De la Costa Building, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC. Twelve fellowships will be awarded, and will include travel fare, accommodations and a modest stipend. Call 426-0601 local 5320.



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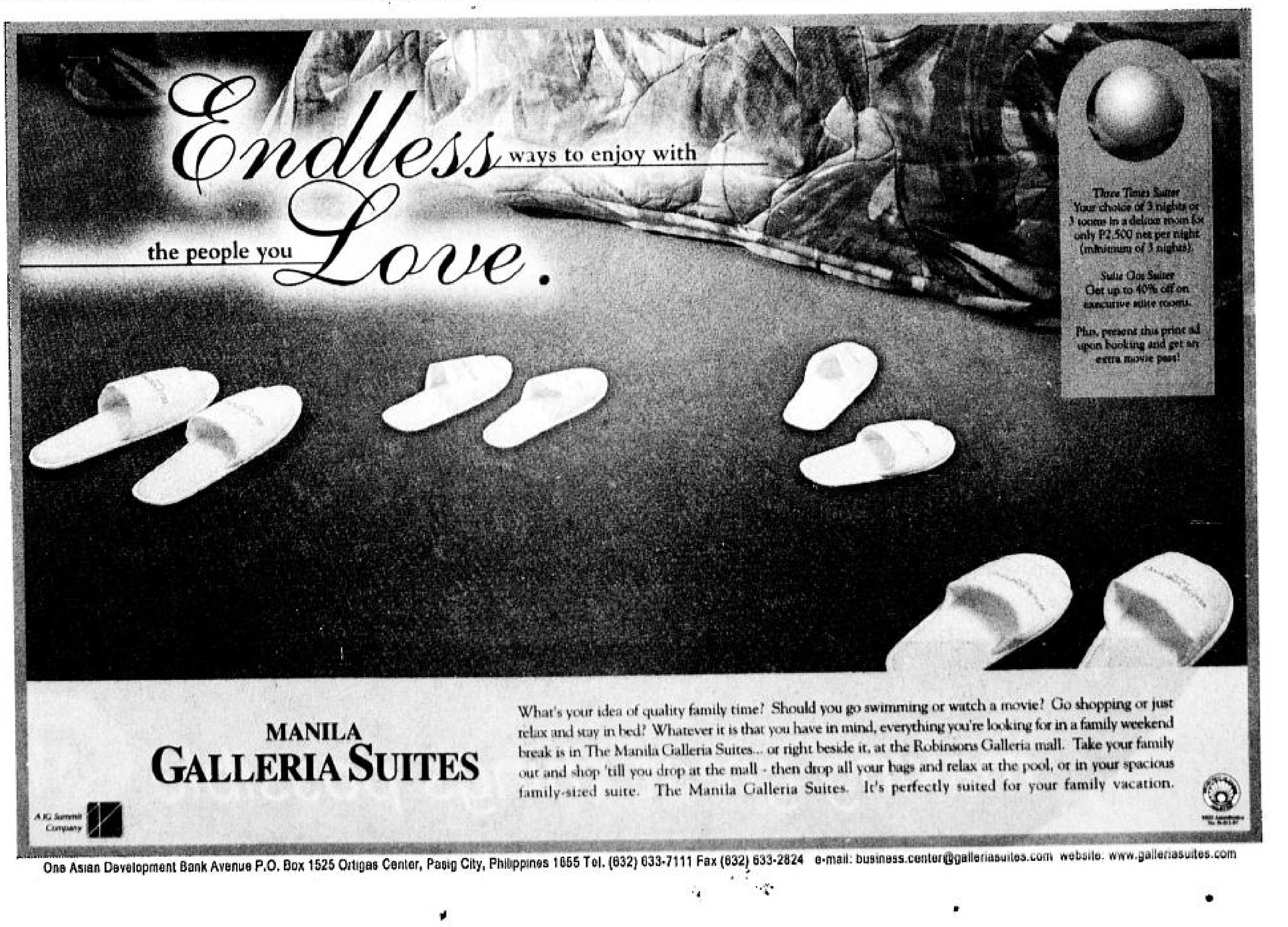

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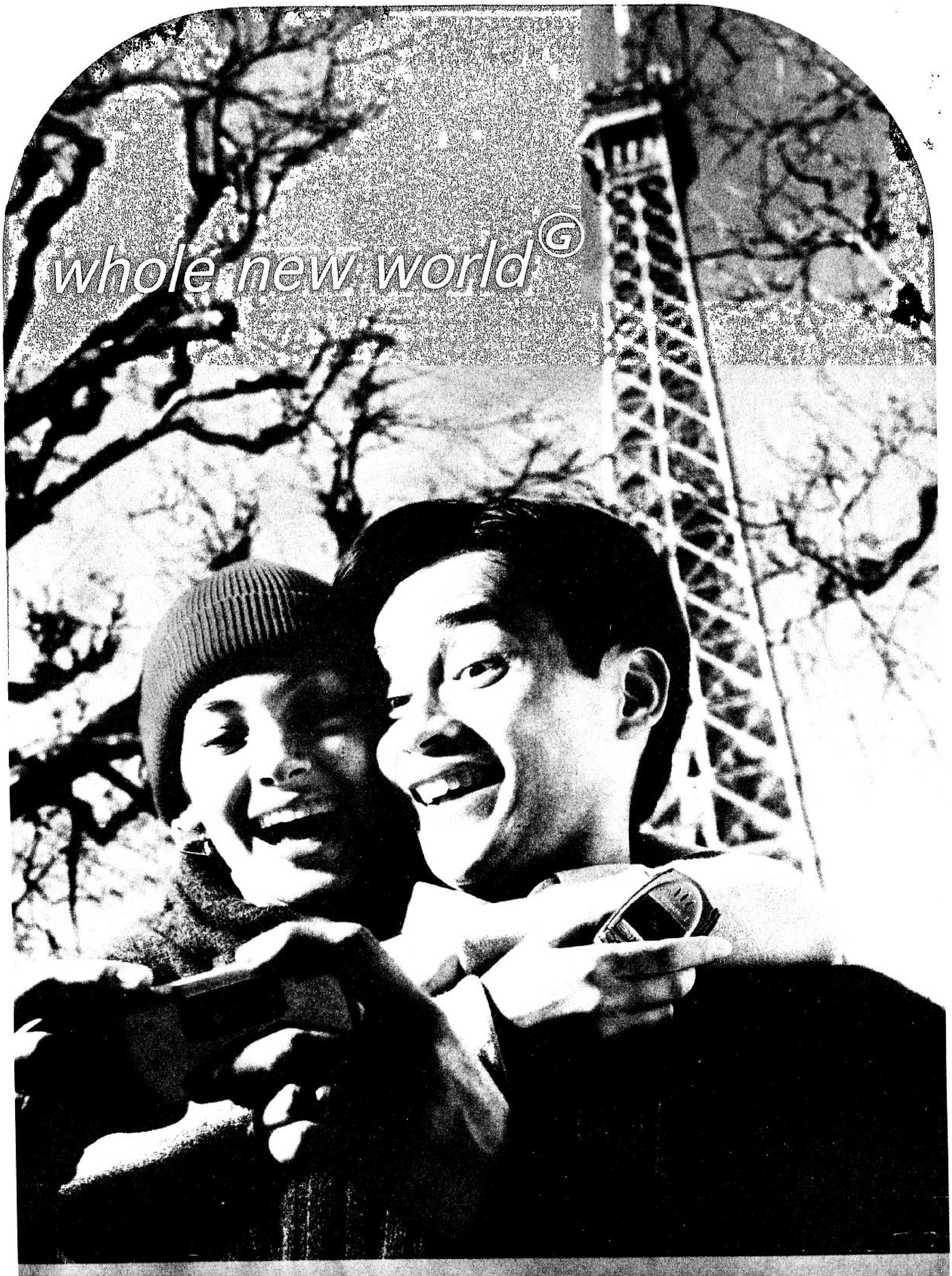

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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

DUNKIN' DONUTS
Coffee on the GO! COMBOS!
Regular-sized Coffee + 2 Donut de Fruta
P25

For your eyes and lips only

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

NEW makeup products always promise to do wonders for your eyes and lips but how do you know which ones can really do the trick for you? Here's a short rundown of what's new in the beauty biz.

Eye shadow—The most common form was powder before pencil, creams and sticks came. Now it comes in a tube in gel form. Gel shadows give a sheer wash of shimmery color that's great for highlighting and feel cool on the skin. So far, they come in pastel colors only.

- Christian Dior's Les Tubes de l'Ete—four pastel colors that can be mixed to produce more shades. They stay on but can be easily rinsed off by water and a good cleanser. Comes in a box with a set of four and one lip gloss. Exclusively at Rustan's.
- L'Oreal Color Fresco Crème—cool feel with high water content, lasts for eight hours. Has hydrating agents that are gentle enough for sensitive skin. Comes in six pastel colors, at P395 each tube.
- Maybelline Maxi Cool eye shadow—its colors are stronger and have more shimmer than the other two. It's also the most reasonably priced.

Eye shadow packaging—Check out Estee Lauder's Pure Color Individual eye shadows! They look like ice cubes with color trapped inside. It's in a powder formula that gives a sheer wash of color so you can actually wear bright colors without looking like a clown.

Long-wearing lipstick—To be in this category, the lipstick should last a good six to eight hours without reapplication. Old formulas made lips drier than *polvoron* and flakier than stale croissants. So manufacturers improved on the old products by adding moisture, which no longer made them long-wearing despite their claims. My lips have always been extremely dry even with some cream-based lipsticks. Now I can use these moisture-added products.

- L'Oreal Invincible Lipstick—intense and even application in just one stroke. My lips looked plumper and softer. For eight hours, they did not flake, feather or disappear. The lipstick does not feel heavy on the lips despite its very opaque coverage. If it does fade, it does so evenly, so you're left with a stain effect that continues to moisturize. This lipstick found the perfect balance without compromising. Not 100 percent transfer-resistant though—more like 90 percent—because there is a slight mark on the glass if you look closely. The shade I recommend—True Rosewood, P525.
- Max Factor Lipfinity—a box contains two things: a lip paint tube with sponge-tip applicator and a clear lip balm stick. Apply lip paint first and it will dry in less than 30 seconds. If worn alone, your lips will literally feel sealed, so they won't be able to move. The lip balm slick gives instant relief and comfort. I was out, got home, worked out and fell asleep and the color stayed put—a span of 12 hours. The lip balm should be reapplied every two to four hours.

Lip Plumper: Avon Nutralush SPF 12 lipstick makes your lips look noticeably fuller and deposits rich and creamy color evenly. It is not a long-laster and you will need to apply it every four hours, but it sloughs off dry lip skin, fills in lines and ridges caused by lack of moisture, protects and, with continued use, improves the condition of your lips. Unlike other moisturizing lipsticks in this price range, it doesn't give that cheap-looking oily finish. It's a spa for lips alone and it only costs P350. Colors everyone can use (regardless of skin tone and clothes colors) are cocoa (mocha brown), sienna (brown-red) and sweet lips (wine red with cool and warm undertones).

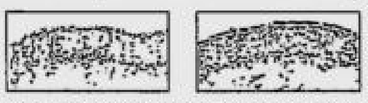
L'OREAL
ColorFresco

Real People. True Stories.

"Teenager? You must mean my daughters! With Imedeen, my skin's smooth even without make-up."

Joanna Valencia-de Jesus,
33, AVP for Finance, interior design student,
mother of two

Joanna de Jesus has the fresh face of a college girl -- plus a successful career and not one but two teenaged daughters! Yet you'd never guess it from her skin: "People can't believe I'm 33!" Thanks to Imedeen, Joanna's not only maintained her young skin -- she's even *improved* it: "I wasn't born with perfect skin. I had sunspots and tiny veins, but they're almost gone; now I don't even need foundation!" Only Imedeen nourishes skin from deep within -- for a smooth, firm, defiantly youthful complexion *without* time consuming rituals. So when her daughters' friends or her own classmates are amazed at her age, Joanna just smiles and says "Believe it -- and believe Imedeen." Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.



Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

Clinically Proven

The Skin Care Tablet

at the Ladies Wear Department

Mother Care

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Don't Ignore the Obvious:
YOU'RE LOSING HAIR!

Do you ignore your thinning and falling hair problems? Shrug off your excessive dandruff? Pretend that you can't see your scalp through your hair? Stop disregarding these obvious hair-loss signs if you don't want to have limp, wispy hair. **Svenson International** offers the most effective treatments that will eliminate the source of your hair loss, hasten the hair regrowth process and improve your scalp's condition.

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816-1260	372-6632	244-8913	842-4181	032-2340853

MON - FRI (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 1 PM)

Clippers days are here

The days of scissors are numbered. Trimmers are the hair-wave of the future

By Anne A. Jambora

DON'T be surprised to find clippers and trimmers instead of scissors the next time you visit the salon. WAHL Clipper Corp., USA, may do what Apple computer did to the typewriter—replace years of snipping tradition with smooth and sassy clippers and trimmers.

The state-of-the-art technology allows for a smooth, even haircut and detailed trimming. Unlike bulky clippers used in barbershops, WAHL clippers and trimmers have comfortable grips that are easy to hold and maneuver at different angles. The high-carbon steel blades are narrower and extend further from the unit for easier and comfortable detailed work, and cut twice as close as standard clippers.

To demonstrate the beneficial features and creative cutting and styling possibilities of its products, WAHL has invited to Manila Marty Rizzo, champion hairstylist. Rizzo is holding hands-on participation workshops at the Top Style Technical Studio, Greenhills, San Juan, until tomorrow.

Rizzo says that styling 25 people every day can only take its toll on the hairstylist's hands. "Before my day ends, my hands are tired from using the scissors." Using WAHL clippers, he says, has liberated his hands from the drudgery of having to constantly move his fingers when snipping away layers of hair. All he needs to do is maneuver the clipper at the right direction, and the job is done.

HAIRSTYLING is faster and kinder to the hands.

INTERNATIONAL stylist Marty Rizzo (far right) finishes the job on all three models in 25 minutes.

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

Quick 'do

The best part, he says, is being able to finish a hairstyling job at half the time one would with scissors, without the fear of cutting himself. "This is especially beneficial to clients who are in a hurry, or for those who don't want to waste precious time inside salons. I can style them in 10 minutes, and the results are the same," he says.

In fact, WAHL clippers and trimmers, aside from being time-efficient compared to scissors, are also 35 percent faster than standard electromagnetic motor clippers. In the fussy business of hiding the flaws and accenting the features, and with more and more clients constantly pressed for time, Rizzo says WAHL clippers couldn't have come out at a better time.

"Like the scissors before them, you have to learn how to use the clippers. From there on it depends on how quick you are to adapt with the equipment," he says.

Three students were picked at random to "model" for Rizzo's hairstyling demonstration. Although Filipinos tend to be less adventurous when it comes to hairstyle, Rizzo says a hairstylist can only fashion a style as far as the client wants them to. Besides, he adds, the hair trend today leans toward the disjointed or overlaced look à la Jennifer Aniston. Anyone who's into hairstyle and fashion knows one need not be adventurous at all to achieve such gorgeous hair.

For the ladies, Rizzo gave them soft, fluid hair flow by not chopping hair in one swift motion. For the guy who wanted the Brad Pitt look, Rizzo gave a modified shaggy style. Impressively, all three students had their hair done in less than 25 minutes.

Principles

Rizzo says to achieve the right haircut, stylists must adhere to certain principles. "The eye follows a straight line. When you look at a person sideways, you must achieve that smooth hair curve where it's needed so that it appears like a straight line exists from the top of the head all the way to the jaw line." He adds that form and balance are important to make a face look pleasing to the eye.

By feeling the client's hair for texture, whether it's silky or coarse, feeling the curls, and accessing the face from the forehead, brow, nose, lips, chin and jaw line, Rizzo already knows what hairstyle to apply. That he does that in three minutes max should come as no surprise. After all, he is backed by 29 years of experience.

Considering the many advantages of WAHL clippers and trimmers, will they one day take over the hairstyling industry and commit the ubiquitous scissors to history? Will the hairstyling trend evolve from razors to scissors to clippers?

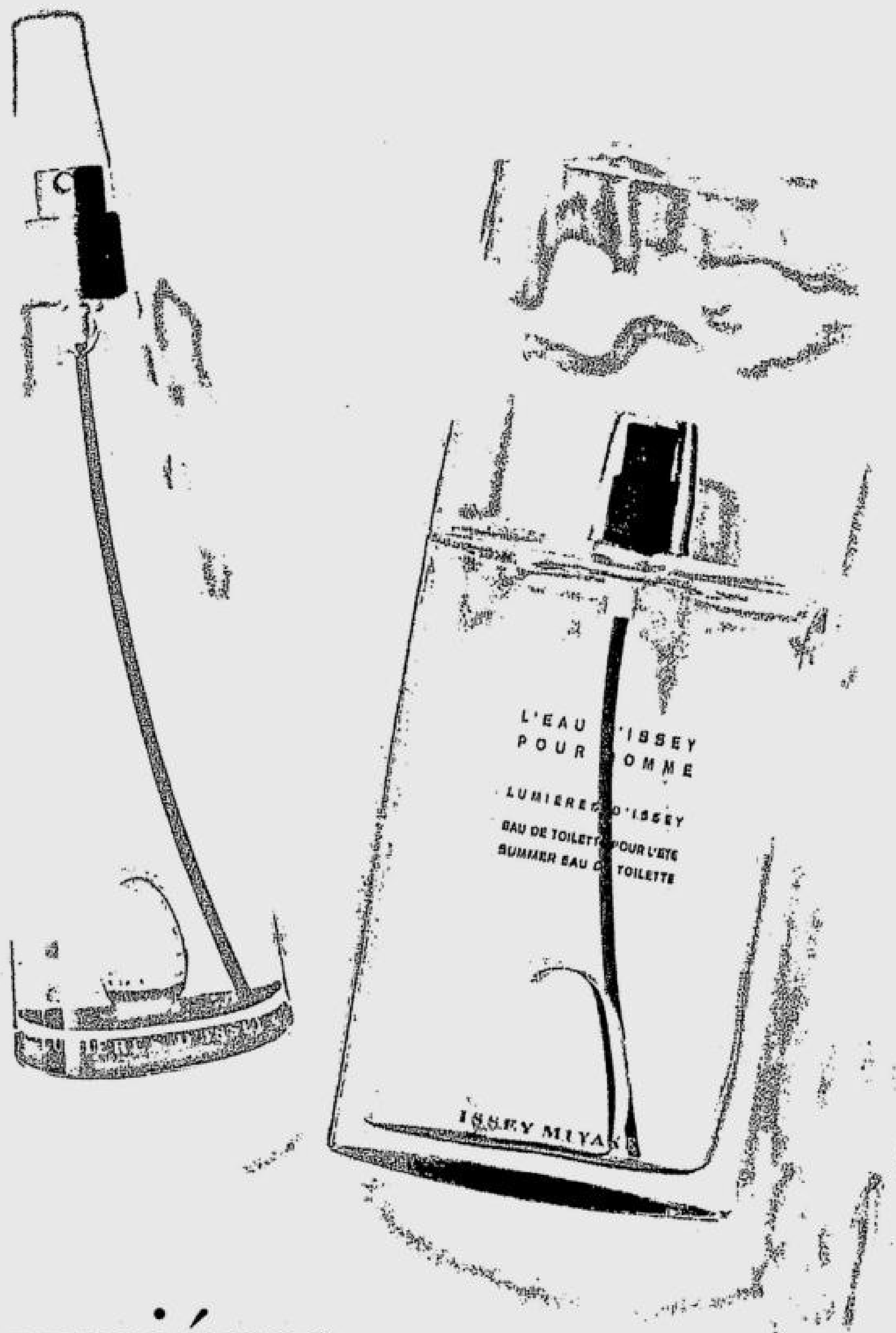
Since the innovation is relatively new, Rizzo can't be sure. "But the clippers are here, and it's compact, smooth, easy with the hands, easy to maneuver and saves haircut time. What else can I ask for?"

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

THE BATTERY-OPERATED clippers and trimmers have interchangeable blades for standard, texturizing and razor cuts.

HANDS AND FEET SALON LAUNCHED

A group of young Filipino-Chinese professionals launched Buff Spa, a hands and feet salon, at SM City Manila. Buff Spa offers treatments for foot fungus. The treatment schemes are for cracked skin, dry skin and extreme perspiration, plus buff-package foot scrub, which combines manicure and pedicure, and utilizes a wide array of colors on its all-imported nail polish range.



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What women should know about rebonding

WITH THE HORROR stories on hair straightening then, and the benefits of rebonding flaunted by almost every salon in the city, how will one discriminate between fact and fallacy?

Tony Galvez, one of the country's foremost authorities on hair dressing with more than 30 years of hands-on practice and author of the book, "Your Hair Is Alive," shares his professional expertise and experience on going straight.

What's the difference between hair straightening and rebonding?

Hair straightening or relaxing was the fad a few years back. It became unpopular with the trail of damage it left behind: hair dropping out in patches and melting during application; burnt scalps, dry, brittle hair and split-ends. These unfortunate incidents were most likely caused by inferior products and incorrect application process. (Just for the record, Galvez never offered hair straightening services until he discovered rebonding.)

Rebonding is the breakthrough technology in straightening hair permanently without damaging and at the same time, resulting in smooth, soft, silky and glossy hair. It uses upgraded chemicals and imported, scientifically designed flat hair iron in producing this result.

Not all rebonding is the same. I couldn't believe my eyes when the Iriya Cosmetics Co. Ltd., one of Japan's leading cosmetics manufacturers, invited me for demonstration and training two years ago.

The difference lies in its superior product formulation. Narcisse TG10's unique combination of blended TG (thioglycolate) and DTDG (dithio diglycholic) acid and systain (amino acid) is strong enough to straighten the most stubborn hair, and kind enough to repair damaged hair. At the same time, rebonding can be done right after hair coloring. Hair rebonded with Narcisse TG10 is permanent, baby soft, shiny, lasts longer and needs retouching only on the newly grown hair every three to six months. The other difference is in the method of application.

How do I know if my hair needs rebonding?

Rebonding is originally used as a cure to solve hair problems such as bristly, frizzy, coarse, kinky, curly, wavy hair, including hair that stands out. It is not a hair fashion style or fad. So if you have no problems such as those described above, you don't need it. Also, the results of rebonding are most effective on long hair, which is best suited for those with faces that are long, thin or square and for those with plenty of time for its care. With rebonding, those who wear their hair long will practically have no bad-hair days because rebonded hair is tangle-free and easy to manage. With these guidelines, you would be able to weigh your hairdresser's advice wisely.

How do I know which rebonding is the most effective and would not damage my hair?

Make sure the product used on your hair contains the above ingredients. Have it applied by professional practitioners. Don't apply it yourself. Ask for referrals. If you know someone who's had her hair rebonded for at least a month and it still works, go to her salon.

How much does it cost?

Salons that use Narcisse TG10 and trained in the Tony Galvez application process offers the standard rates of P3,500 for short length, P4,500 for medium length and P6,000 for long hair. For those with special problems, prices vary on a case-to-case basis.

What can I do if I can't afford rebonding and have problematic hair?

Get a slightly layered modern cut, chin- to medium-length so it is easier to manage. Apply sufficient amount of hair conditioner after shampooing so it becomes soft and manageable. Wear hair cream or wax if you need to be somewhere special. And if your hair is really a serious problem, apply in writing, together with a photo for a scholarship, at The Tony Galvez Hair Salon, G/F of The Tony Galvez Centrum, 124 9th Ave., Araneta Center, Cubao, QC; tel. 912-5930, 911-6991 or 421-1292. Visit www.tonygalvez. com.ph.

Jesi Mendez launches new haircuts and colors for the season

JESI Mendez's Urban Collection of new haircuts and colors for the season was recently launched at Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati.

Jesi Mendez is best known for fabulous makeovers and is acknowledged as the original makeover maestro of the beauty elite throughout the country.

The Jesi Mendez Urban Collection 2002 introduced four new cuts for women and one for men that would look perfect in any city in the world. L'Oreal Professionnel was the perfect partner as it brings out the best in every hairdresser.

Leading the event together with Jesi Mendez were his wife Gina Mendez, daughters Nina and Grace, and the Jesi Mendez Salon styling team composed of Edgar Muleta, Nemelie Junsan and Malou Cueto. Co-hosting the show were the L'Oreal Professionel team of Vicky Encarnacion, Tricia Duavit and Annie Batungbakal. Seen enjoying the presentation were Ping Valencia, Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala and Vicky Morales.

JESI Mendez in action

First stop for the Jesi Mendeż Urban Collection 2002 is "Miami," which was especially created for long hair, gently feathered and shaped for maximum appeal. The Jesi Mendez Urban Collection then hits the Big Apple with "New York," a wash-and-wear look that's sophisticated yet practical. Going for all-out Hollywood glamour, Jesi Mendez next created "Los Angeles," for medium-length hair that's all appealing curves, and "San Francisco," which lets you go up-to-the-minute yet totally polished for any occasion.

The Jesi Mendez salon outlets are located at the lower level of Alabang Town Center, Park Square 1 in Ayala, 3/F New World Hotel, 2/L Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place-Ermita, 3/L Robinsons Metro East in Pasig, Tutuban Center Mall in Manila, and most recently, in Canada.

URBAN Collection 2002 models with the Jesi Mendez Salon styling team

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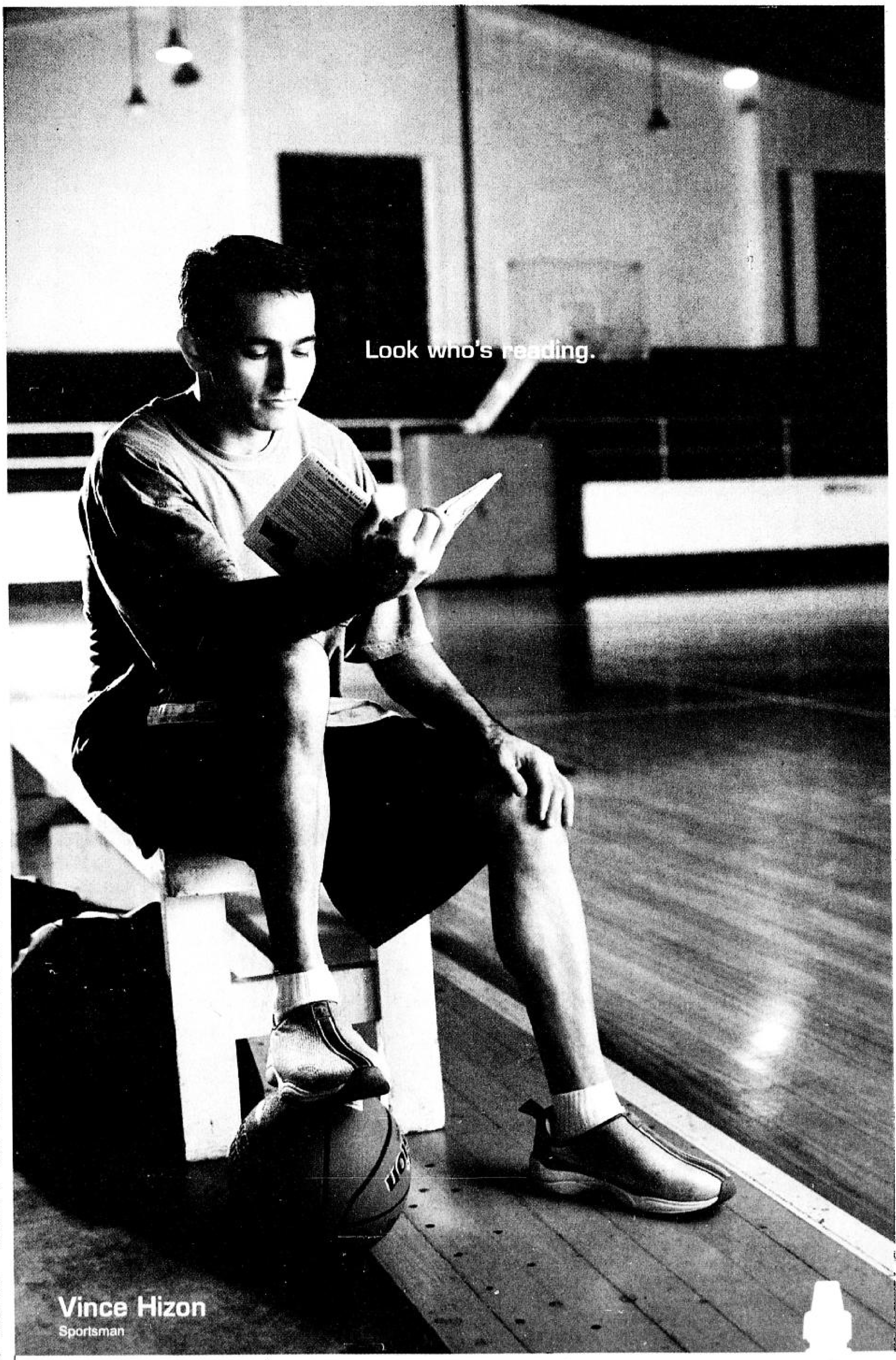

Thoughts on the joys of reading:

"True, basketball gives me all the physical workout I need. But when it comes to keeping myself mentally inspired, reading is the mind's best exercise."

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askal	balisong	fishball	zaging

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SONG TITLE	KEYWORD	ARTIST
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AWIT NG BARKADA	barkada	APO HIKING SOCIETY
BILANGGO	bilanggo	RIZAL UNDERGROUND
CHINA EYES	chinaeye	ALAMID
FOREVERMORE	foreverm	SIDE A
NANG MAGING CHAMPION ANG GINEBRA	ginebra	GARY GRANADA
HATAW NA	hatawna	GARY VALENCIANO
HOLD ON	holdon	SIDE A
LAKLAK	laklak	TEETH
NOW THAT I HAVE YOU	nowthati1	THE COMPANY
PRINCESA	princesa	TEETH
PUMAPATAK NA NAMAN ANG ULAN	pumaptak	APO HIKING SOCIETY
SET YOU FREE	setufree	SIDE A
So many questions	somanyq	SIDE A
TABING ILOG	tabilog	BARBIE'S CRADLE
DI BALE NA LANG	dibale	GARY VALENCIANO
PAMULINAWEN	pamulina	PD
TIL MY HEARTACHES END	tilmy	ELLA MAY SAISON
YOUR LOVE	yourlove	ALAMID
LOOK IN HER EYES	lukineye	GARY VALENCIANO
MR. KUPIDO	mrkupido	RACHEL ALEJANDRO
DAMDAMIN KO SA'YO	damdamin	REGINE VELASQUEZ
HANDOG NG PILIPINO SA MUNDO	handog	APO HIKING SOCIETY
BEFORE I LET YOU GO	b4iletgo	FREESTYLE
THIS TIME	thistime	FREESTYLE
SO SLOW	soslow	FREESTYLE
YOU GOT ME WORKING	gtmewrkn	GARY VALENCIANO
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LIFESTYLE

Home

The ex factor

When you cross paths with your ex, show you're not affected. Break down later

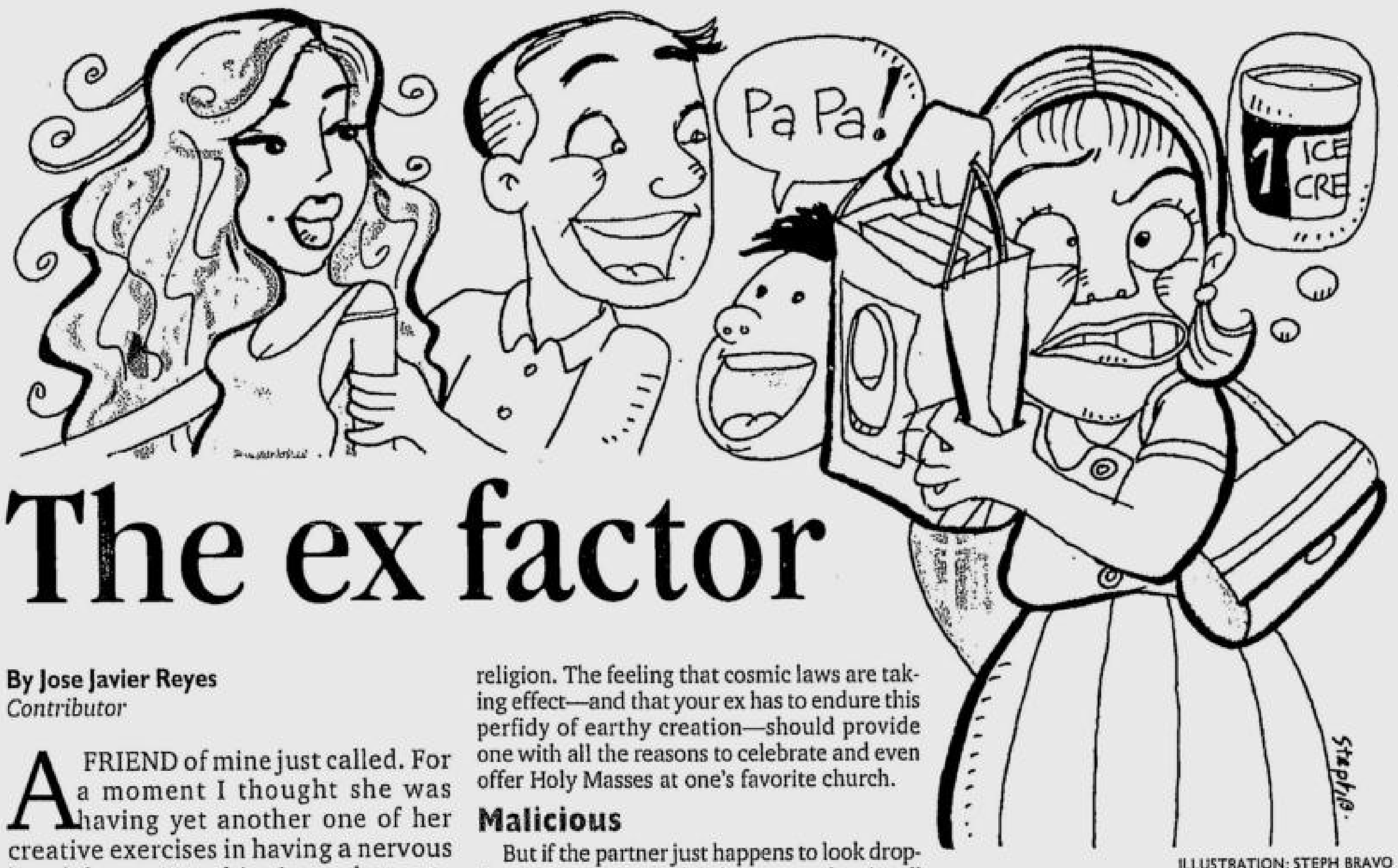

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

A FRIEND of mine just called. For a moment I thought she was having yet another one of her creative exercises in having a nervous breakdown. But this time what provoked her into this self-flagellating, self-deprecating and self-serving display of stress was more interesting than the usual.

She bumped into her ex.

I would have easily sympathized and empathized with her if the parting had happened a few days or months ago. But according to our solar calendars, the break-up took place at about the time that Fidel Ramos was about to relinquish the keys of Malacañang to Erap. If my contemporary political history is right, that was two Edsas ago.

But my friend had a way of rationalizing her permutations of insanity. "I am over him, but...he still has that effect on me." A normal, polite and decent "Hi-Hello" would have served the purpose, but not for the Drama Queen that is my friend. From her account, I imagined her doing an interpretation of the Academy Award-winning scene of Meryl Streep in "Sophie's Choice" when the heroine was made to choose between her son and daughter to surrender to the Gestapo. But, of course, that is overplaying the routine. I mean, there are no more Gestapos, and besides, she bumped into him at the second floor of the Power Plant (which, to my mind, does not and can never approximate to a concentration camp).

But then maybe I am being a bit too harsh and judgmental about my bawling friend. Ex-lovers *do* have an effect on the people that they once upon a time took great prominence in a slice of life. Setting aside Hallmark-Card sentiments about love never dying and merely fading away—or, worse, clichés about time healing all wounds (and leaving non-cosmetic surgery curable colloids)—ex-es still shake us, create disequilibria and tug at cheap and sentimental memory strings when we chance upon them.

There are a variety of reactions aside from the contained hysteria of my friend. After the shock of coming face to face with someone whom you thought you could not live without (but have lived through in ultimate absence), some buzzer rings in the brain.

Changed

First, of course, is the realization that he or she has changed. Whether it is gravity exhibiting natural powers to bring about the sagging of the breasts—or the belly jutting out and covering the belt line of his low-waist trousers, a gasp may be emitted but only heard by the inner ear lodged inside one's brain.

Then, depending on the final sequences that led to the parting of ways, the emotional resurfacing takes place. If the break-up was kind and cordial, polite and mutual, the predictable exchange of pleasantries cannot help but follow. The usual, "*Huy*, how are you?" or the downright overused, "Long time, no see..." should serve well. Now, again, depending on how nice you were to each other when you didn't want to have each other anymore, the assurances like, "You haven't changed!" (even if he has a bald spot or has gone completely Kojak) or "You're looking good!" (Good for embalming? Good to go with riddance?) are necessary affectations at a desperately shallow conversation.

In the event that the ex is with his or her a) present lover, b) spouse or, worst of all, c) children, variations of the approach can be employed. Setting all our pretenses aside and casting off all that is allegedly Christian in our disposition, we must all admit that the first impulse upon catching sight of an ex with his/her present or lifetime partner is to be deliberately yet politely vicious. More than assessing the degree of deterioration of the ex, the paramount concern is auditing the qualities of his or her companion.

The expected smile will remain in place, matched by the immediate head-to-toe scanning of the partner while mentally taking note of every human deficiency perceived or assumed. If the new or lifetime partner happens to look like a byproduct of nuclear waste, there is no point in feeling guilty about any inner jubilation. (HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!) It is indeed in moments like these that one truly believes there is a God, regardless of choice of religion. The feeling that cosmic laws are taking effect—and that your ex has to endure this perfidy of earthy creation—should provide one with all the reasons to celebrate and even offer Holy Masses at one's favorite church.

Malicious

But if the partner just happens to look drop-dead gorgeous—the kind that you, despite all attempts at natural and supernatural aids, can never become, dignity demands that the smile should still remain on the face—and the *bunbunan-hanggang-hinliliit* scanning be more cautious, scrupulous and downright malicious. That is permitted because being an ex yourself gives you supreme license to bitch then pitch. You can always say that beauty is skin-deep (and therefore the partner must be a moron) or that you are sure that underneath all that glam and sparkle beats the heart of Darth Vader.

The question of judging the children is something a bit more iffy. Of course, you are expected to squeal, "How cute *naman* your kids!" or "My, I didn't know they have all grown up so fast." It is best to deliberately ignore the either curious or apathetic glare of these larvae—or feel a strange sensation that there is something about you they don't like (because they are not expected to like you). Besides, it can be worse if your ex introduces you as, "This could have been your Mommy/Daddy," because you know that is not true. Deep in your heart you know you can produce better children than what he/she has right now. So it's his/her loss and definitely not yours.

That is why it is so much easier to bump into an ex whom you have decided to hate for the rest of your life (plus two or more reincarnations). Assuming that it is the other party who was responsible for making a living hell out of those days—and, to this very moment, you cannot help but throw up whenever you remember that past affair, coming across the same square meter of the planet with the wretched creature brings about an elementary reaction.

Think worst

It is only a question of whether you will acknowledge the other person's existence or assume the pose of Deadma Walking. So it is best not to hope for the best, but simply think of the worst. If he/she acknowledges you and you choose to do the classic I-don't-see-you, I-don't-hear-you, then you can go home and eat half a gallon of rocky road ice cream for celebration. But if he/she also chooses to let you glide by like you were some floating quark in the wholeness of the universe, then let that be so.

What is more important is not to let the other person see that you are affected. Reserve your sudden abandonment (like smashing a

THE EX/ p.F3

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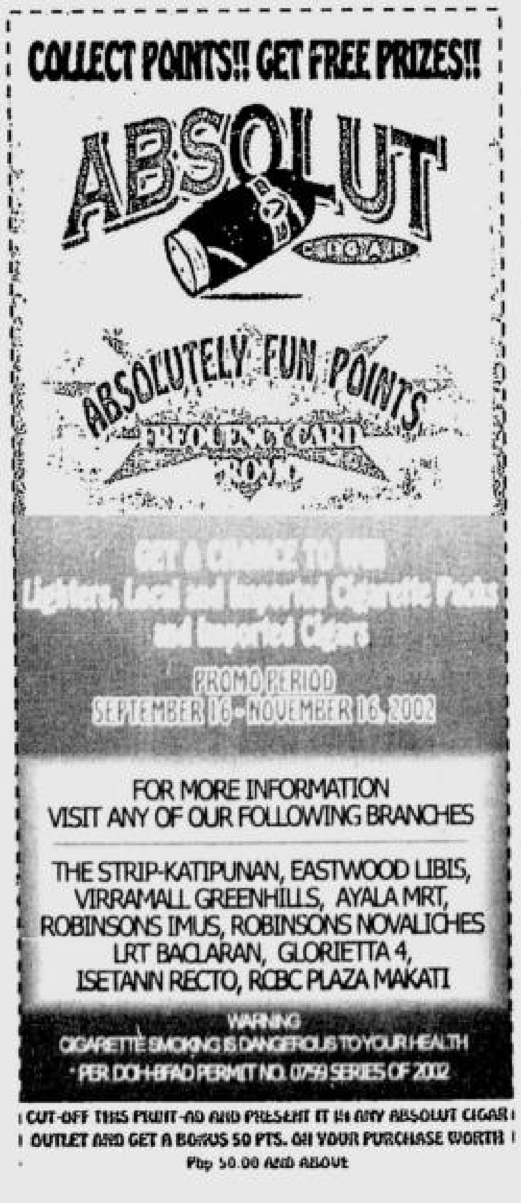
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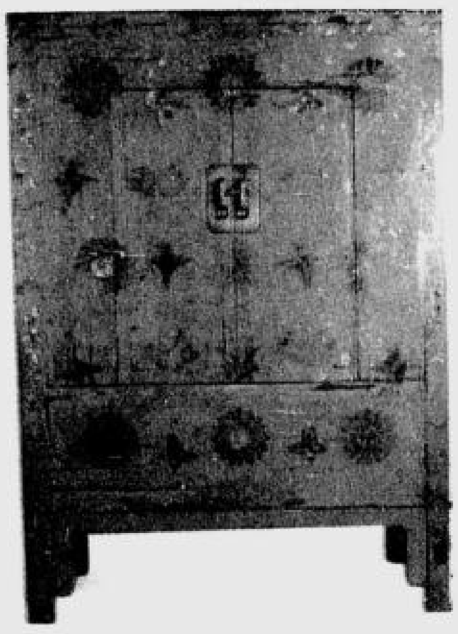
Furniture for good feng shui

ARTS of Asia, the Chinese classic furniture store, has opened last month its new Alabang branch on the upper G/L of the new wing of the Alabang Town Center.

Founder Susann Lara, who credits "feng shui" for the success of her store, made sure that the principles of Chinese geomancy were observed in the design of the establishment. She shares some tips which people can apply in their own homes:

Lara said most of the principles were practical. For instance, if the store made customers feel comfortable, and the shop was located where the target market was, then everything would follow.

Among the things geomancers advise for good luck are bright lights, regarded as primary feng shui enhancer. Placed anywhere, bright lights could be potent tools in improving one's fortune. They help create career opportunities, jazz up a person's love life, or bring success to one's children.



THE COLOR red (*hong*) is also lucky, having the power to ward off demons. It's also the color of life and wealth. Peonies, painted in gold on a 19th-century red lacquer cabinet, signifies wealth and distinction.

Other suggestions from Lara are:

- Comfortably space furniture. It is important to arrange furniture not too close to each other so that *chi'I* (the "cosmic breath" or "life force") can circulate.
- Round objects that make circular motions (ceiling fans, revolving doors, etc.) or round furniture pieces (like the 19th-century *juwood* coffee table) encourage *chi'I* to flow throughout the room.

Feng shui symbols, which are featured in some of the store's furniture pieces, can also bring good fortune and repel bad luck. These include:

- Bat (*pian-fu*) may signify evil and thirst for blood in the west, but to the Chinese, it stands for blessings (*fu*) like long life, riches, health, love of virtue and natural death.
- The "Fu" character means blessings or luck.
- Horseshoe, a lucky symbol in both the east and west, is considered effective in "holding in" good fortune.
- Red (*hong*) is an imperial color, believed to ward off demons. It is the color of life and wealth. A red spot is painted on a child's forehead to ward off diseases. Of the three gods of good fortune, the one who answers prayers for high office and riches wears a red robe.
- Peony, "queen of flowers," signifies wealth and distinction.
- Peach is the most common symbol of longevity, traditionally placed in front of houses during the New Year to drive away evil spirits.
- Butterfly (*hu-die*) symbolizes longevity.
- Chrysanthemum (*ju*) is a symbol for long life and duration.
- Prunus, a small flower, symbolizes perseverance and purity.

Lara adds that feng shui's "auspicious symbols" make attractive design elements. She notes that ancient artisans wanted pieces to be not only functional and symbolic, but beautiful and timeless. Arts of Asia Works of Art is also located at 11 Jupiter St., Makati. Call 895-7907, 899-3802 and 850-5248 (Alabang).

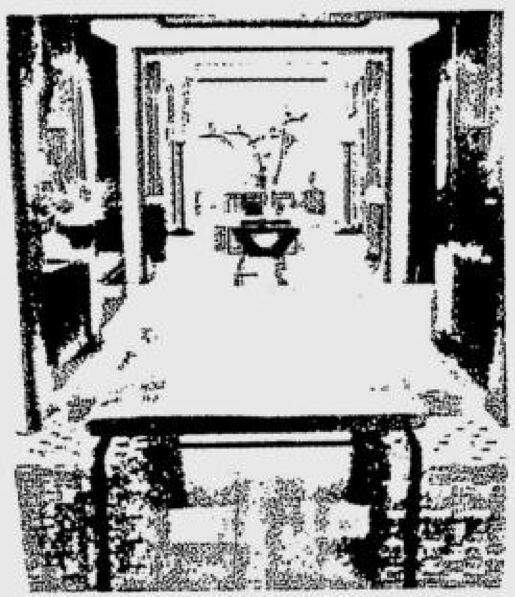
Lifestyle shop helps clients design their homes

ARTEMIS, a 300-sq m lifestyle shop located along Pasong Tamo Extension, has recently undergone renovation.

Sophistication and panache are showcased in fine decorative fabrics, wallpaper, trimmings, furnishings, objects, hardware, decorative accessories, bathroom fittings and carpets, making it the focus of excellence for local interior design, which has been the hallmark of the company since it started in 1995.

International designs exclusively represented by Artemis include Jim Thompson, Donghia, Pierre Frey, Braquenie, Gaston y Daniela, Schumacher and Crucial Trading, which are synonymous with the best in comfort, quality, durability and timeless elegance.

Artemis also excels in customer service standards by readily making available things and services you need—from memo swatches, photo flyers, pads and pens—to make your selection and home concept creation more convenient. Call 867-2381.



MOLAVE tables with metal legs are teamed up with sea grass stools.

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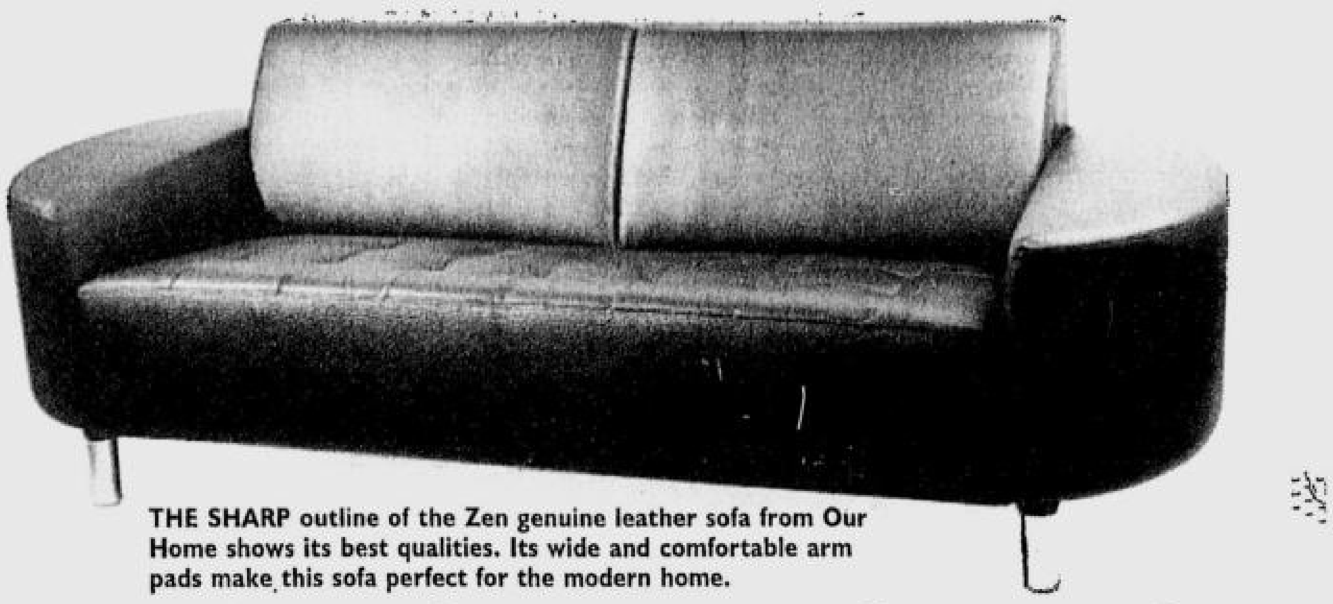


THE SHARP outline of the Zen genuine leather sofa from Our Home shows its best qualities. Its wide and comfortable arm pads make this sofa perfect for the modern home.

Leather forecast for sofas

ONE of the most important pieces in any living room is the sofa. Many furniture settings are built around it, and these often set the mood and tone of the room.

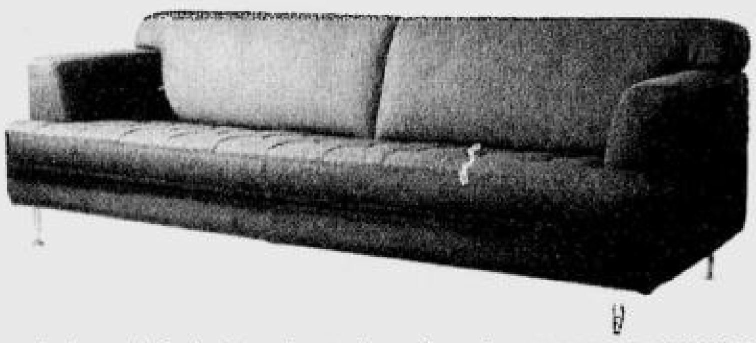
Our Home, the exciting lifestyle store where one can get great designs at great prices, has a new collection of sofas—sleek, modern and in luxe leather.

The best part is that behind every sofa is a well-crafted piece of furniture that looks great and is built to last. These include frame structures made of kiln dried solid hardwood and thick plywood, zigzag or S spring for softer-feeling seat suspension; high-density resistant polyutherane foam fill the seat, back and arm cushion for that comfy feeling; and steel legs for more stability and a sleeker look.

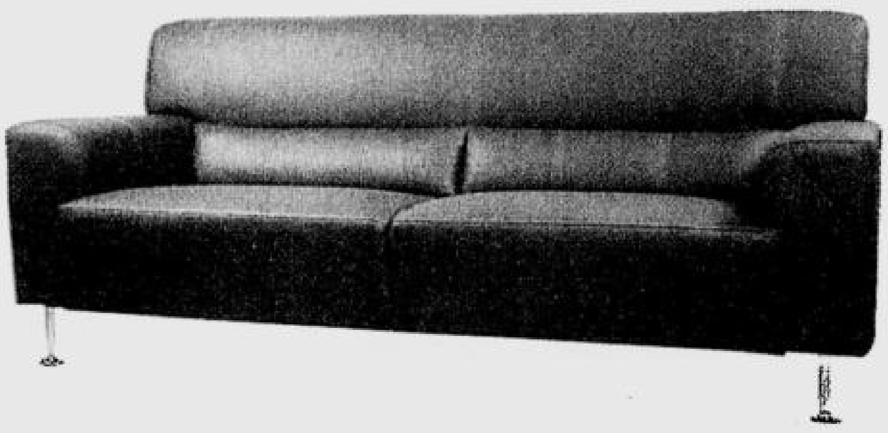
Here are some tips from Our Home on making sofas work in the living room:

- If at all possible, have two or three furniture groupings in the room. The more intimate, the better. First, determine where your main seating arrangement would be and then build from there, finding space for additional grouping.
- The depth of your upholstered sofa should be compatible with the depth of your upholstered chairs in order to keep them in scale. Check to make sure the height is the same for both.
- If your room is small, fewer pieces of upholstered furniture will look better than crowding the space with smaller-scaled furnishings.
- For each chair or sofa, there should be a table to put a book or a drink.
- Sofas can be dressed by pillows. You can add color as well by contrasting fabrics. A large sofa can have two 23-sq-inch pillows.

The leather sofa collection is available at Our Home in SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM Southmall and SM Bacoor.



LEATHER LUXURY. Sit back and relax with this Espace leather sofa from Our Home. The back seat and arm cushion are filled with high- density resilient polyurethane foam using "S" spring for softer-feeling seat suspension. Steel legs are used for more stability and a sleeker look.



LOVE THIS SOFA! Our Home gives you the best of leather sofa with this Hatano sofa. The frame structures are made of kiln dried solid hardwood and thick plywood using zigzag spring for softer-feeling seat suspension.

'Flower spectacle' at World Trade Center

From page F4

stick to convention but believes in expressing himself—his drama, to be specific. By the way, he goes for styles such as free flowing, linear and avant-garde. Citem officials "conferred" on him the title "floral architect."

The first Cuna Cup last year was a resounding success. We know because we were there from day one. The competition this year was another feather in Cuna's cap. Major companies were evidently just too happy to be part of the event, generously donating flowers and other materials.

The competition was divided into two categories: professional and amateur. Under the professional category, there were four segments: commercial centerpiece with structure, Father's Day gift basket, *noche buena* for a family reunion, collage on the theme "Luntiang Pilipinas," and designer's challenge: a bouquet for the modern Filipina bride.

At stake were P50,000 or a scholarship grant to Singapore, first prize; P20,000, second prize; and P10,000, third prize. Gil Sombilla, florist of Shower of Blessings shop, won first place; Wilfredo Tongco, freelance florist of Batangas, second; and Randy Corteza, freelance florist of Dangwa flower center, third.

Amateur competition had five segments: body flowers, commercial buffet centerpiece for an international convention, New Year's arrangement, floral mask festival, and designer's challenge: a bouquet for a tea party to celebrate world peace.

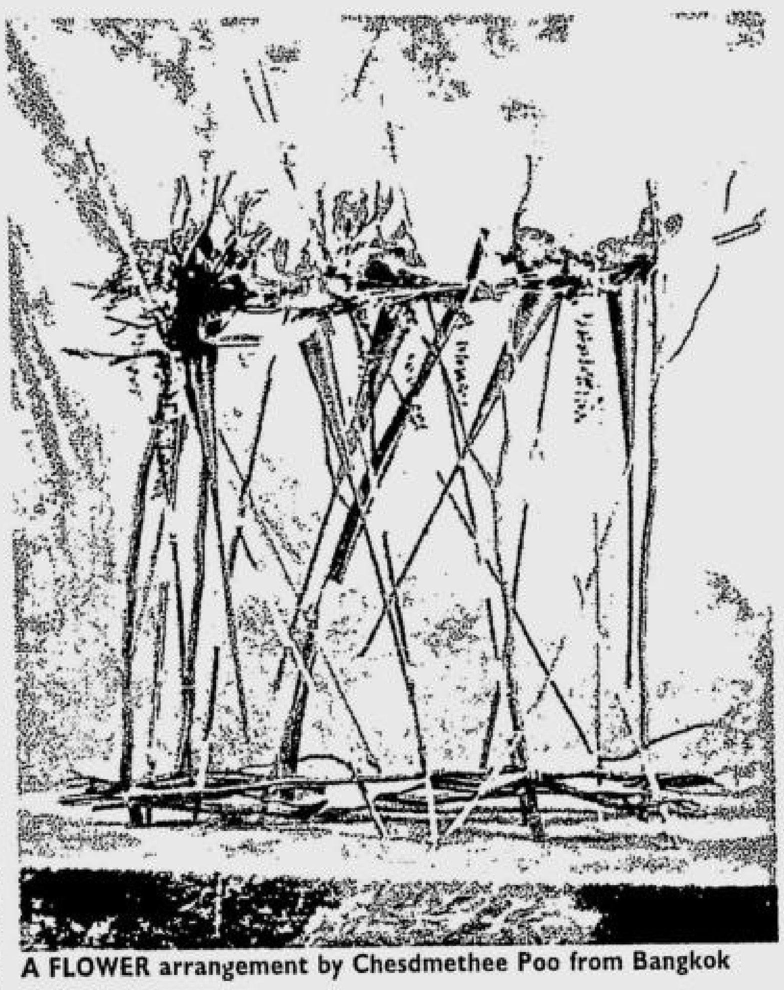
At stake were P20,000 for first prize, P10,000 for second prize and P5,000 for third.

Winners were Alex Llubic of Holland Bulbs, first prize; Gabriel Oria of Bouquets and freelance florist Mario Datu for second and third, respectively.

The rousing applause during the awarding rites spoke louder than words. Still wearing their florist's aprons, compliments of Cuna, the contestants were obviously relieved that the exhausting tension of the competition was over. The results were graciously accepted by the participants, who obviously found the judges' decision fair. Unlike other competitions, there were no protests, no sore losers.

The third Rachy Cuna Flower Cup is already underway this early, as there are already applicants for next year's Cup. Call 722-8644 or 725-8986.

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph



A FLOWER arrangement by Chesdmethee Poo from Bangkok

LARRY Sia, Letty de Castro, Pearl Banaag, Rachy Cuna, Belen Bactad, Marilou Lim and Beth Lopez

AMATEUR level winner Alex Llubit, Rachy Cuna and Gil Sombilla, professional level winner

PHALAENOPSIS collection from Hawaii

Exhibit features new breeds of orchids

THE PURIFICACION Orchids and Ornamental Garden will hold its second annual grand exhibit and sale at its main outlet in the Manila Seedling Bank Compound, corner Quezon Avenue and Edsa, QC, on Sept. 26-Oct. 1.

New breeds of Phalaenopsis or butterfly orchids, Vandas, dendrobiums, oncidiums or dancing ladies, and cut flowers will highlight the show. Also on exhibit are rare as well as new varieties of cacti, adeniums and *hawortha*, which will be suitable for the coming El Niño phenomenon, and exotic curcuma, flowering gingers, *aglaonemas*, philodendrens and dieffenbacchias (anti-pollution plants), ferns, ivy, joyas and *aeschynanthis* from hanging baskets; wishbone torenias, vincas, petunias, selocias and other annuals for landscape; tilandsias, guzmanias, vrieseas and other bromeliads; culinary herbs like rosemary, thyme, variegated oregano, tarragon, dill, bay trees, various types of basil and more; gerberas and mini mums for gift plants.

Big discounts will be offered on all items on sale. A series of lectures and demonstrations will be held at 2-3 p.m. daily during the show. The schedule of lectures is as follows: Sept. 27, "Various styles of arranging flowers for different occasions" by Jing Cruz, in-house florist and manager of Purificacion Orchids; "Tips on buying plants for your 'budget' garden" by Anna Ruth P. Conde, operations and general manager of Purificacion Orchids; Sept. 28, "Ornamental plants to bring good luck and good health" by Chat Alejandro, journalist, psychic and foreign language instructor; Sept. 29, "Propagation of orchids for your own garden' by Cora Purificacion, president of the Purificacion Orchids; Sept. 30, "Flower arrangements as gifts and home décor" by Jing Cruz; and Oct. 1, "Using cacti and succulents for dish gardens" by Cora Purificacion.

The annual show is held in commemoration of the late Eric Purificacion, whose breeds of orchids were major winners in competitions sponsored by various garden societies.

Discount sales will also be given on plants at all Purificacion orchids outlets in SM North Edsa, SM Fairview, SM Megamall, SM San Fernando and now in SM Manila. The plant exhibit is open to the public for free.

The ex factor

From page F1

chair, beating up your pet Chihuahua or renewing your acquaintance with Johnny Walker) in the privacy of your territory—never in public and never, never within the auditory or visual range of the Most Hateful Creature Known to Man. But what is necessary is to purge the anger, relive the pain and enumerate the 6,000 reasons why the existence of your ex may be the only mistake made by our Creator in the entire history of mankind.

This will not only make you feel good—good that you are rid of him/her, good that you have kept your dignity (or something close to that)—but better...that you are now proceeding with life, enriching yourself with new experiences and friends...definitely moving on.

And, after you have come to a complete resolve and regained your calm, you can always go to Quiapo, buy candles from the vendor and light a black one while muttering his/her name thrice (your ex's name, not the vendor's). The candles cost only P10 each, but the feeling they bring about, I tell you, is so good.

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Leandro Agustin De Villa
Agoncillo, Batangas

Jelyn Chua Japa
Olongapo City

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Davao City

Zoltan Solomon Taguibao
Bacolod City

Coby James Rodriguez
Las Piñas

Jaime Carlo Sta. Maria
Muntinlupa City

John Philip Baligcot
Makati City

Victor Angelo Solomon
Quezon City

Paulo Alberto Torres
Makati City

Michelle Villamarzo
Mandaluyong City

Aubrey Manalansan
Quezon City

Danniel Jacinto
Quezon City

Jorwin Calvo
Cebu City

Angelita Borromeo
Cebu City

Aimee Belle Chan
Quezon City

Kimberly Uy
Cagayan de Oro City

Jay Angela Omaña
Cagayan de Oro City

Emilie Charmine de Silva
Quezon City

Darryl Fe Garcia
Valenzuela City

Mary Balamban
Lipa City, Batangas

Charisse Denise Katryn Candasa
Imus, Cavite

Pamela Magpatoc
Baguio City

Jayson Valderrama
Tagum City

Lesleyann Nifras
Sasa, Davao

Mark Kevin Viduya
San Jacinto,Pangasinan

Louie Gee Girgano
Pob. Santander, Cebu

Jenna Lyn Visaya
Calamba City

PRELIMINARY DRAW

5 Winners of SONY Playstation2

Isaiah Manuel M. De Guzman
Quezon City

Mary Robelle Gonong
Laoag City, Ilocos Norte

Aimee Belle Chan
Quezon City

Maiko Bryan Diesto
Iloilo City

Nina D. Oviedo
Davao City

25 Winners of Toy Kingdom P5,000 Gift Cheques

Khris Rhose Balcena
Iloilo City

Nelvey U. Yagonia
Cagayan de Oro City

Sarah Jane Pudadera
Negros Occidental

Vicente Luigi Avan
Bukidnon

Mary Mc Sherry Yongco
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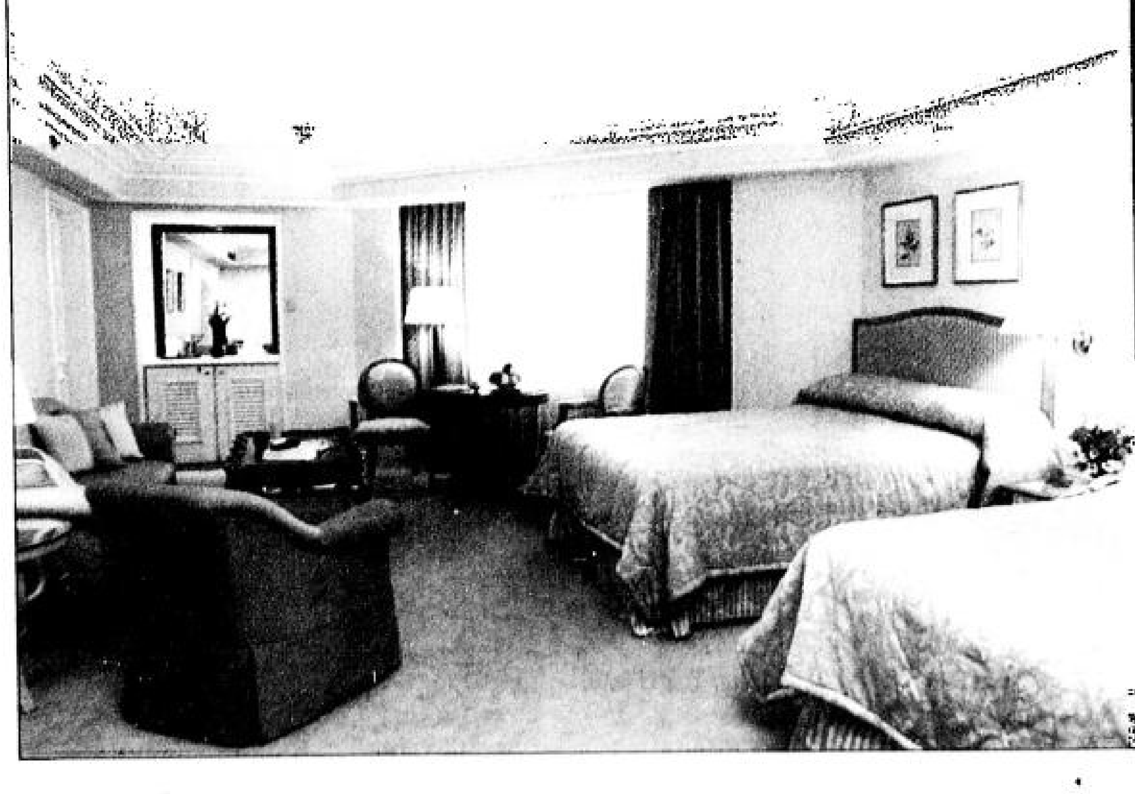

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'Flower spectacle' at World Trade Center

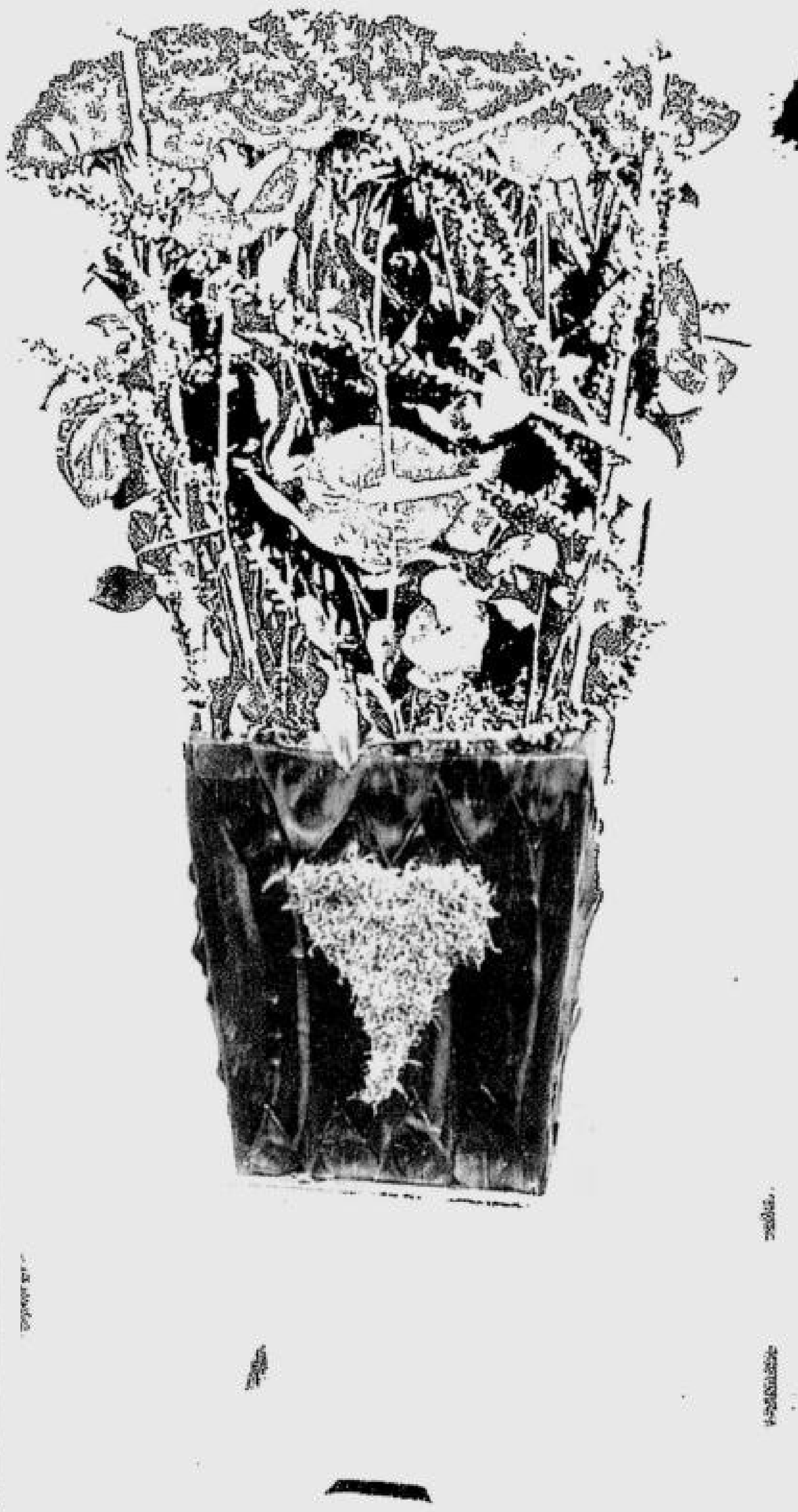
Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Allan M. Borras

A FLORAL drama was how spectators described the multicolored bouquets and flower arrangements that greeted them at the Rachy Z. Cuna Cup, a competition for florists held over the weekend at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard.

But, of course! In any Rachy Cuna event—whether it's a floral arrangement for Citem's major trade shows, a posh wedding ceremony or a simple altar presentation—one can expect a dramatic spectacle. Cuna, dubbed the country's floral architect, is well-known for his theatrical touches—gold-dipped cymbidium orchids, flaming red Chinese parasols, exotic lanterns, metal accessories, handcrafted vases and flamboyant cut flowers.

> As expected, the second Rachy Z. Cuna Cup had all the drama and flair of a Cuna brainchild

Now on its second year, the Cuna Cup competition was even more spectacular than the first. Ten of the country's top florists, including last year's winner in the amateur category, joined the professional flower arranging competition, while 24 vied for the amateur title. Before the competition held last Sunday, two experts from Singapore and Thailand conducted a workshop called "Floral Rhapsody" and demonstrated trendy floral arrangements.



A FLOWER arrangement of red roses by Anson Low of Singapore

For the competition, the sponsorship of major flower industry suppliers gave the contestants more than enough materials to work with. Fresh flowers and foliage came from the Puentespina Tropical Plants and Flowers, gerberas from L & L Farms, hydrangeas and eucalyptus from Reliance Care, liliums and callas from King Louis, vases and accessories from Jasam Floral Sundries of John and Susie Ong, and dried flowers and raw materials from Green 2000-Yalan of Adela Ang.

The other sponsors were Skyline Restaurant, Fiorgelato, Miarayon, Garden World, Flora Silk, Uni-Green, TJ Philippines, Grandeur, and Passion Photography.

Judges included well-known personalities in the international flower industry. From abroad were Dean White, chair of the World Flower Council, and the experts who conducted the workshop—Anson Low of Singapore, and Chesdmethee Poo of Thailand. White is currently in the Philippines to get a feel of the next site of the World Flower Congress. Poo is one of Thailand's talented young florists while Anson has a school for floral arts in Singapore.

Filipino judges included architect Carlo Tanseco, sculptor and jeweler Alison David, patroness of the arts and restaurateur Lynn Sunico, horticulturist Arlene Puentespina and Marites Cancio Suplico of Goodwill Bookstore.

Cuna came up with the idea for a floral competition to help the country's 3,000 or so florists all over the country who had nowhere to go to advance their skills and crafts. Moreover, competition among florists was cutthroat and, expectedly, the industry was splintered.

AN ARRANGEMENT of anthuriums and curcoma by Anson Low from Singapore

"Why not a floral competition?" Cuna asked friends from the Floral Arts and Craft Design Center, a shop with a school for flower arrangement. "We all agreed it had to be a prestigious event that florists can respect and feel honored to join. They have been so repressed for so long. You can see it in their art," he explained to us.

A florist himself, Cuna does not

FLOWER/ p.F2

FLORAL Arts and Crafts Design Center Inc. president Pearl Banaag, international chair of the World Flower Council and board of judges chair Dean White, and floral architect Rachy Cuna

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Home LIFESTYLE

A QUIET red corner by the master bedroom

Scarlet swoon

The Almario design sisters reinvent the bedroom by combining Asian elements and modern motifs

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

RED IS probably the least likely color one would use in a bedroom, but sisters Ivy and Cynthia Almario of Atelier Almario (tel. 817-40-16/17) have managed to integrate such a bold shade by tempering it with black-and-white accents.

The master bedroom is part of Bay Garden's three-bedroom model unit (tel. 551-0888) on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay. It's the Almarios' first attempt at "Asian Modern," a look that juxtaposes Asian elements with modern furniture pieces.

Except for an antique Chinese wooden chair, for example, almost every piece in the master bedroom is sleek and modern. The sisters' use of white Roman shades lined with black bands proved to be vital as they temper and provide a refreshing contrast to the area's red walls.

"Using red in the bedroom is quite tricky," says Cynthia. "It's probably an unusual choice, but we didn't use it for the sake of shocking people. Thanks to such black-and-white elements, we were able to pull it off."

Table lamps, artworks, side tables and throw pillows follow the same classic color scheme. The black headboard frames the white wall featuring a pair of identical two-toned artworks

SCARLET/ p.G2

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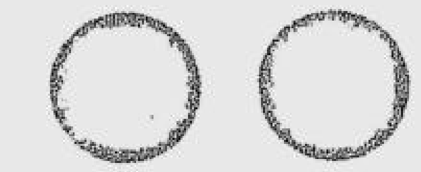

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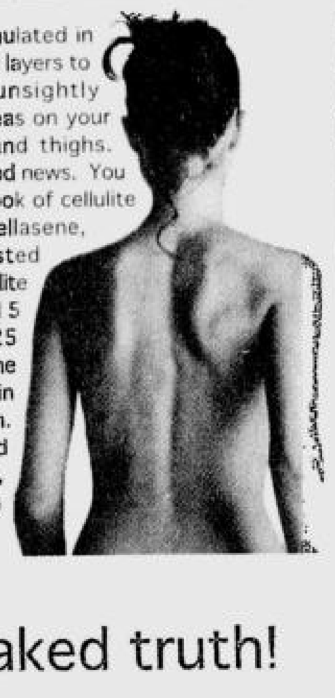
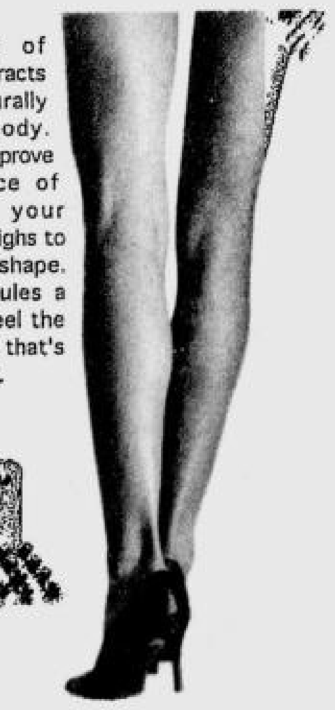


Cellulite is accumulated in your skin's deeper layers to bulge out in unsightly "orange peel" areas on your buttocks, hips and thighs. But here's the good news. You can control the look of cellulite in 6-8 weeks. Cellasene, the clinically-tested breakthrough cellulite pill has sold 15 million packs in 25 countries and is the top selling brand in Europe and Japan. Developed and made in Europe, Cellasene is a potent blend of natural plant extracts that work naturally within your body. Cellasene may improve the appearance of cellulite on your buttocks and thighs to a firmer, ideal shape. With 2-3 capsules a day, see and feel the difference. And that's the naked truth.

The naked truth!



Ask for Cellasene at Rustan's (Shangri-la, Cubao, Harrison Plaza), Mercury Drug and Watsons.
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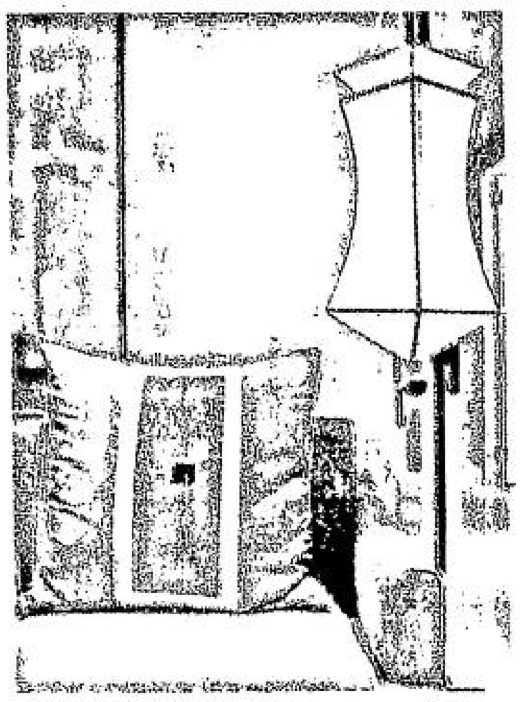
THE LIVING room features sleek furniture pieces, with Oriental touches confined to the dressed-up throw pillows, hanging lanterns and geometric coffee table.



TWO Asian-inspired elements up close

Scarlet *swoon*

From page G1

TABLE setting in colors, textures and patterns that reflect the model unit's "Asian Modern" theme.

composed of Chinese characters.

Earthy feel

The wall-to-wall sisal carpet imparts the bedroom with an earthy feel while toning down the walls' crimson finish. Seeing no need to further call attention to the red linen, the Almarios purposely eschewed satin in favor of matte fabrics.

"Deviating from traditional Asian-inspired textures and materials makes the look modern," Cynthia explains.

Instead of red, the sisters chose creamy shades of beige for the guestroom—from the walls, the linen to the accent pieces. Silver leaf finish makes for an interesting if unusual contrast. Asian touches spill over to a custom-made chandelier that resembles a beige lantern designed by Ivy.

Except for a trio of fern-like prints above the padded headboard, the walls are virtually free of artworks. Cynthia attributes this to the bedroom's vertical wall treatment. "If you have no money for expensive artworks and wall treatments, accentuate your walls with stripes."

SHADES of creamy beige and silver leaf finish in the guestroom

Several elements unify the model unit's three private spaces: ribbon-studded comforters, huge pillows, petite table lamps and use of interesting if unusual color combinations. The boys' room, for instance, radiates with shades of blue and green.

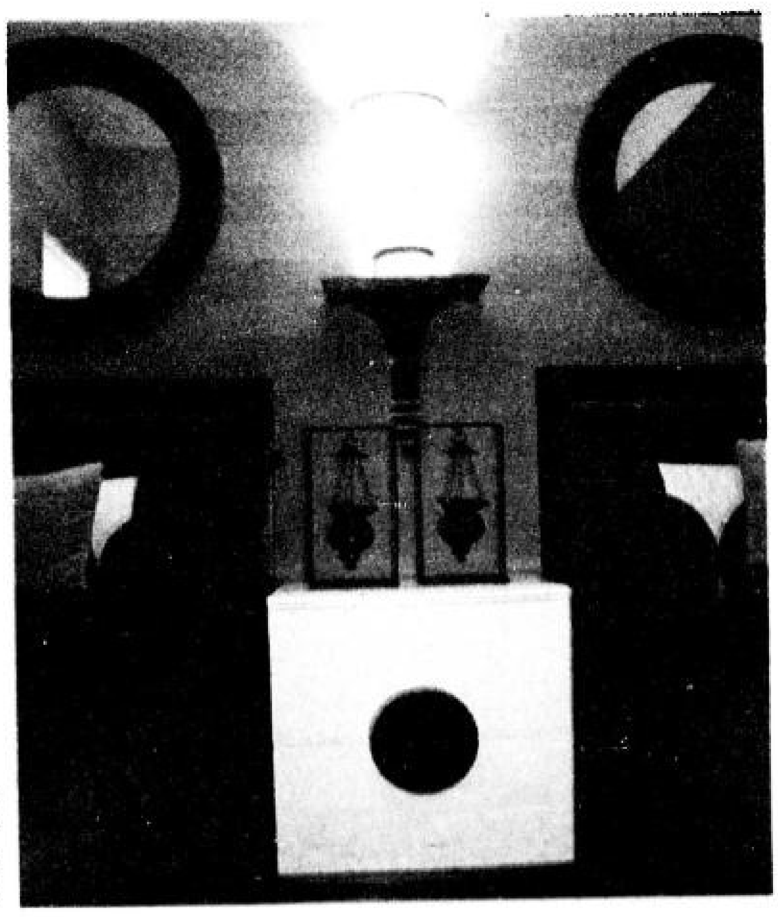
"Instead of vertical stripes," says Cynthia, "we opted for upholstered walls." This time light blue Roman shades temper the padded green walls.

In keeping with the theme, they again made use of a number of interesting elements. Apart from breaking the wall's monotony, a pair of porthole mirrors succeeds in imparting the bedroom with a Japanese feel—an underlying theme highlighted through such round objects as the cabinet handles and throw pillows.

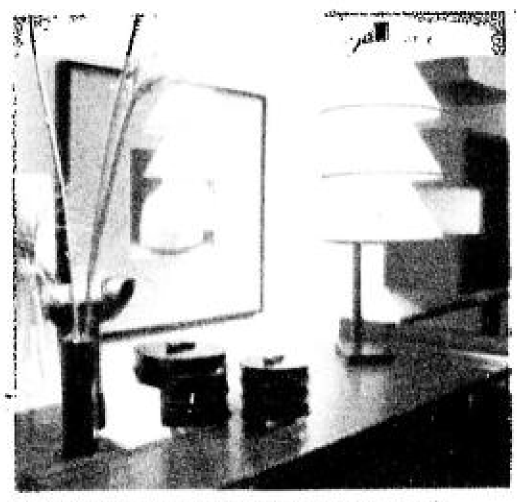
In lieu of a lampshade, the sisters chose a beige lantern mounted on a wenge-finished wall sconce. An étagère featuring various Asian-inspired accent pieces underscores the Oriental motif that begins the minute prospective buyers enter the living room, where sleek furniture pieces are again the norm.

SCARLET/ p.G3

FRAMED mirrors double as wall panels, while white scarves streamline covered dining room chairs.



GREEN and blue make for an interesting combination.



THE MODEL unit's display table and entertainment center

Scarlet . . .

From page G2

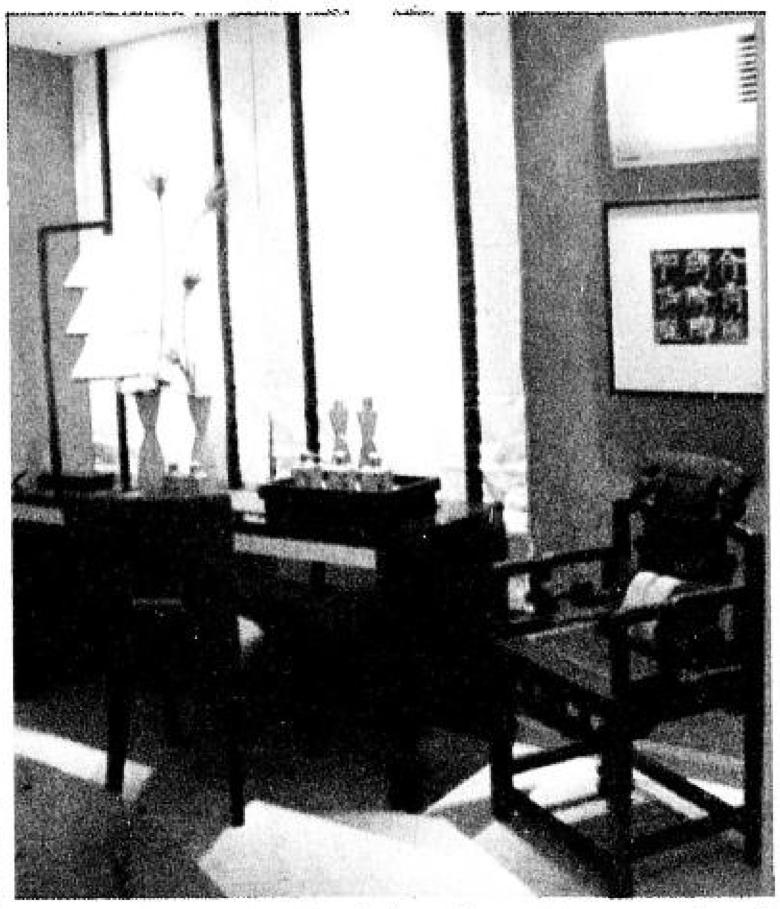
Textures

The beige sofa, bordered by a pair of hanging lanterns, is spruced up with throw pillows dressed in tasseled tangerine scarves made of Thai silk. The coffee table, with its geometric legs, draws influences from both East and West. A spread of sisal rug echoes the color of the walls and sofa and defines the sala from the adjacent dining area.

"To make small spaces look bigger and more cohesive," says Cynthia, "we limited ourselves to neutral color schemes. Instead, we played on textures." The wallpaper, for instance, simulates the texture of raffia, while white scarves streamline several covered dining room chairs.

Of course, we all know how the use of mirrors imparts an otherwise small room with an illusion of space. This time, however, such an overused device has assumed a new purpose by the dining table.

"We decided to tweak it by making the three framed mirrors into wall panels," says Cynthia.



ASIAN Modern can be chic, sleek and free of clutter as reflected in this vanity cum worktable.

Then there were also certain structural limitations to address. The sisters, for instance, had to redo the living room's high ceiling to "humanize" and make it more interesting. They went for a drop ceiling equipped with halogen lights.

Rather than tear down a slanted wall near the foyer that eats up space, they turned it into an accent wall that doubles as the model unit's entertainment center. Of course, the Almarios played it safe by choosing wenge over red finish.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

RIBBON-STUDDED comforters, dressed-up throw pillows and petite lampshades in the master bedroom are among the unifying elements found in the other private spaces.

Volunteers for agricultural-environmental protection

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

EDITHA Calienta Cedicol, head of the Graduate Scholarship Department and coordinator of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources in UP Los Baños, has told us that the Consortium has programs and projects to develop human resources and institutions.

The programs include graduate scholarships for qualified nationals of Southeast Asian countries who want to pursue MS and Ph.D. degrees in agriculture and related sciences, seminar-workshops, conferences, curriculum development for sustainable agriculture and volunteer work.

Cedicol informs us that the Consortium is undertaking a joint project with the Asean Foundation—the Regional Volunteer Experts for Agricultural Modernization (Reveam), which seeks "to tap the services of volunteer experts in agriculture and related sciences to assist in identifying and addressing issues concerning poverty alleviation, food security, environmental protection, conservation and management of natural resources and social equity." The project provides funds for travel and living allowance of the volunteers who will be sent to Southeast Asian countries. The project is scheduled for three years. It started August 2000 and will continue until July 2003.

Now on its third year of operation, Reveam, writes Cedicol, "has developed a database of regional experts and sent a number of them to assist in institutional capacity-building and human resources development in the Philippines (to Luzon and Mindanao during the first two years). And as soon as requests from other institutions are in place, we will send them to the Visayas, and Indonesia. Soon, volunteers will be active in the lahar areas in Luzon; skills and enterprise development in Sulu; institutional capacity-building in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Central Java."

A number of Searca fellows all over the region (about 900 of them) who are now occupying various positions in government and private offices here and abroad, are being mobilized to assist in this project, adds Cedicol.

The adviser for the project is Dr. Ricardo T. Gloria, a fellow of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Education and Research in Agirculture (Searca) and a former education secretary.

For more information on this volunteer project, contact Cedicol at the Southeast Asian University Consortium, UP Los Baños, fax (63-49) 536-7164. Visit Searca's homepage to learn more about Reveam at www.searca. org.

Orchidarium

We are receiving requests for directions to the Orchidarium, which is nestled so beautifully in the Luneta, it is not easily visible. One e-mail sender says she and her friends went to the park but could not find it, and even some guards they had asked could not tell them where to go. This is not surprising since the Orchidarium was intended to be a Shangri-La in the midst of busy traffic and city noise.

But then, realizing that people need to know the Orchidarium's location in order to enjoy it, the Clean & Green Foundation, which runs the place, will soon add more prominent signages. Right now, the most visible marker is at the entrance gate fronting the T. Valencia (formerly Agrifina) Circle.

In reply to M.C.D., M.O. and other interested parties: please be informed that the Orchidarium is bordered by M. Orosa Street, Finance Drive (almost parallel to P. Burgos) and Taft Avenue. It is directly beside the Museum of the Filipino People (formerly Department of Agriculture). You can also enter it from T.M. Kalaw, at the National Library side of M. Orosa. Just go straight—the last block at the right is site of the Orchidarium.

As to parking space, the road between the Museum of the Filipino People and the garden/park is usually available, and if there are not too many cars, one may also park inside the Orchidarium premises.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Country fair in Tagaytay

WEEKEND trekkers to Tagaytay City are in for a special treat. "Colors and Flavors in Tagaytay," a country fair, is being held until today and on Sept. 21-22 at the Ming Ramos Garden Center on Tagaytay-Sta. Rosa Road.

The two-weekend fair will showcase the best arts and crafts, and food products that come mainly from the southern Luzon area. Some products are for the Christmas gift-giving season.

Exhibitors who have confirmed participation include The Flower Farm Corp., Ming's Garden Center, Ilog Maria Honeybee Farm, Bag of Beans, Gourmet Farms Inc., Gourmet's Café, Mushroomburger, Tagaytay Arts Guild, Focolare, Colors of Tagaytay, Samahang Kartonista, Tagaytay Religious Group, Tagaytay City Tourism Council, Valesal Orchid Farm, the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion, which is a project of Ming Ramos' Clean and Green Foundation Inc.

The event will likewise feature on-the-spot portrait painting and caricature sessions by noted artists in the country.

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Automatic CENTRE

Shop n' Swipe in North Edsa

PHOTO BY JOHNNY VILLENA

GEAR up for another appliance fair organized by Automatic Centre. Dubbed "Shop & Swipe in North Edsa," the exhibit began last Sept. 18 and will last until Sept. 30.

The exhibit will showcase a wide range of appliances from popular brands like Condura, JVC, Kelvinator, LG, National, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sony, and Whirlpool.

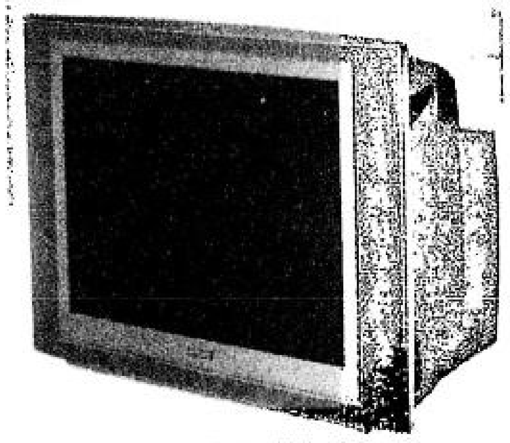
For this event, Automatic Centre has tied up with major credit card companies to give qualified consumers an opportunity to purchase as many items as they want. All credit card installment plans have reduced interest rates for the duration of the event. A customer can also enjoy the zero-percent interest installment rate on selected appliances using his or her credit card.

Loads of amenities

Appliance buyers can take advantage of amenities Automatic Centre has offered for this exhibit. One of them is the **Money-Back Guarantee**, which is actually available all year round. It's a 14-day price warranty that allows a customer to buy with confidence.

0%

Interest on PHILIPS Projection TV, Flat TV and Plasma TV at 6 mos. term. Also, Philips High-Definition TV at 12 mos. plan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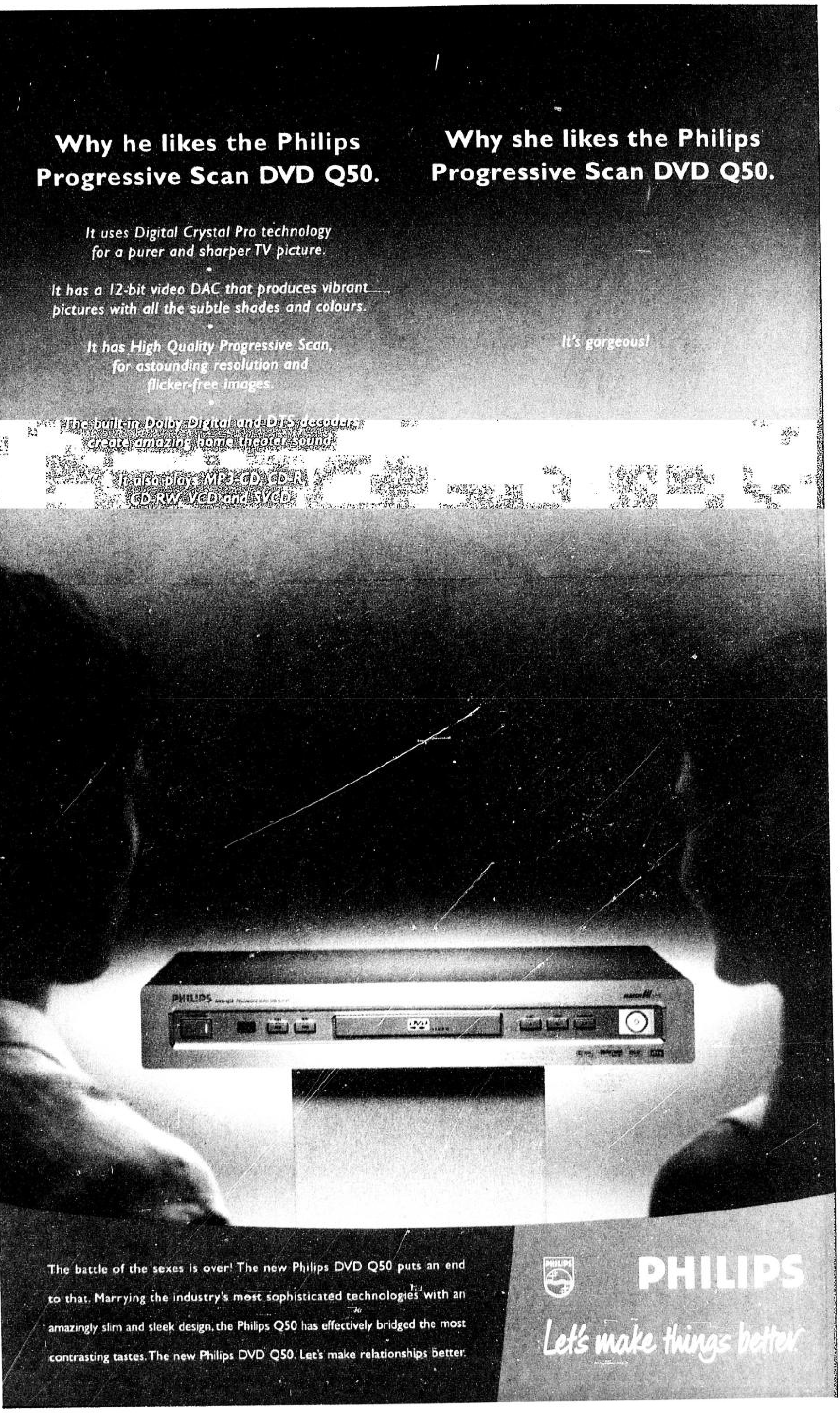

Why he likes the Philips Progressive Scan DVD Q50.

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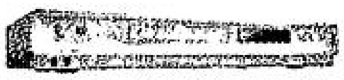
DVD Q35
Philips DVD Player
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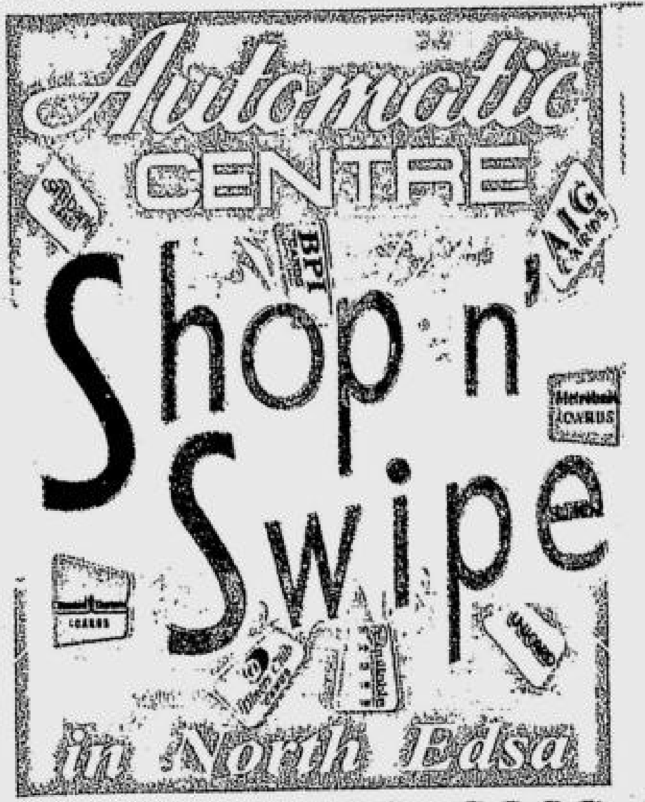

SEPT. 18-30, 2002

PHOTO BY JOHNNY VILLENA

SONY
SONY
WEGA

North Edsa . . .

If he or she finds that the item bought from Automatic Centre is a little higher in price than the same item in another store, rest assured that the price difference would be given back to the customer. All one needs to do is show concrete proof of the lower price.

Another exciting offering is the Appliance Credit Terms Installment Own Now (ACTION) Loans. **ACTION Loans** is essentially a financing service offered thru Associates Finance Inc. It is into retail financing of appliances at affordable prices. Buyers can get the financing approval in just two days or even less.

Hulugan Walang Interest or **Lay Away Plans**. A customer makes a deposit, then makes the next three payments during the next three months. Once the item is fully paid, it can be picked up or delivered. Excellent for people who are planning their purchases and who have to schedule their payments. Availing of the Lay-Away Plan gives price protection and assurance of stock availability to customers.

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> ACTION Loans,
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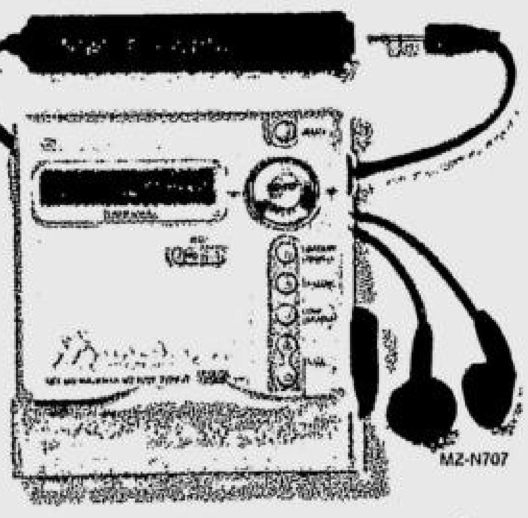

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Automatic CENTRE
Shop n' Swipe
in North Edsa
SEPT. 18-30, 2002

Automatic CENTRE

Then there's the Warranty Plus extended warranty, which Automatic Centre makes available on a wide selection of appliances

PHOTO BY JOHNNY VILLENA

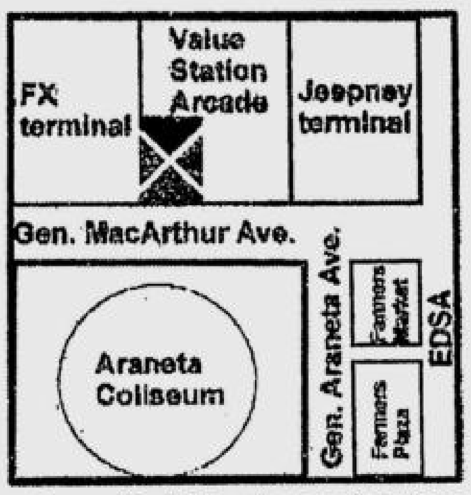
North Edsa. . .

Then there's the **Warranty Plus extended warranty**, which Automatic Centre makes available in cooperation with Philam. For every major appliance purchased, there's an option to buy Warranty Plus coverage for it. This is a warranty in addition to the one-year warranty the appliance manufacturer gives. A choice of one year, two years or four years added coverage. The customer has

WARRANTY Plus

Automatic Centre now back at Araneta Center

REGULAR patrons of Araneta Center in Cubao now have another great reason to visit the shopping center. The all-new Automatic Centre at the same location (now known as the Value Station arcade) is an air-conditioned two-story branch which offers a wide variety of appliances and home entertainment products.



Very affordable prices and various amenities available in all Automatic Centre branches can be enjoyed in this brand-new store for a more convenient shopping experience.

The Yuletide season is just around the corner, and Automatic Centre is just within your reach for gift shopping.

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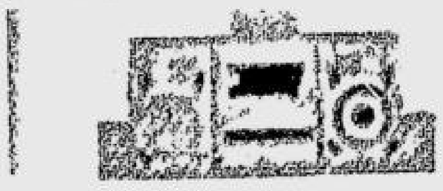
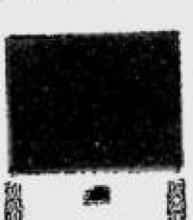

DVD Mini 5-speaker component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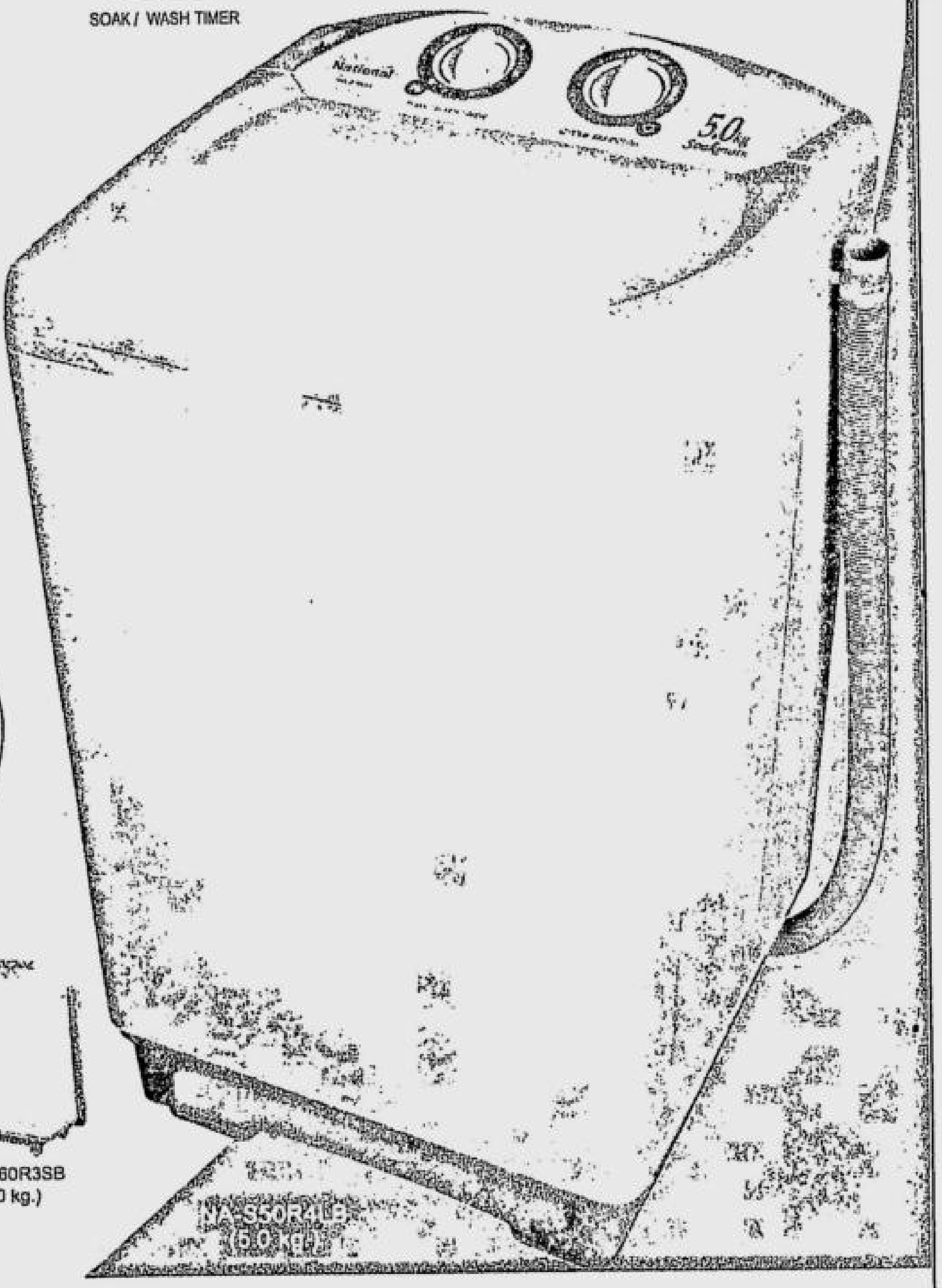

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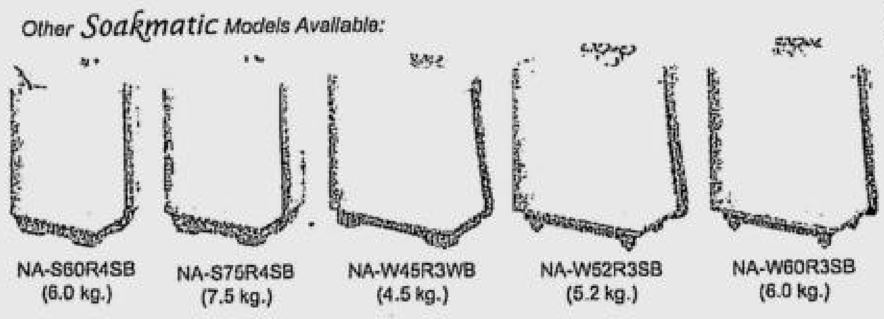
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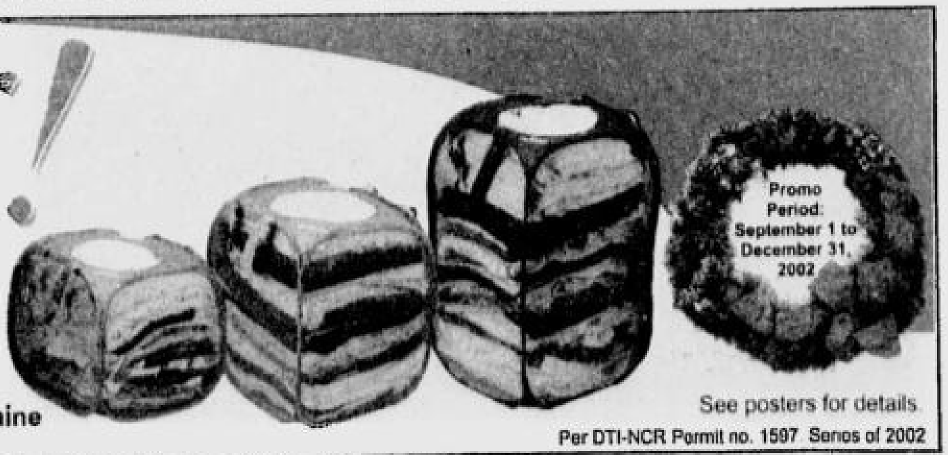

See posters for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1597 Series of 2002

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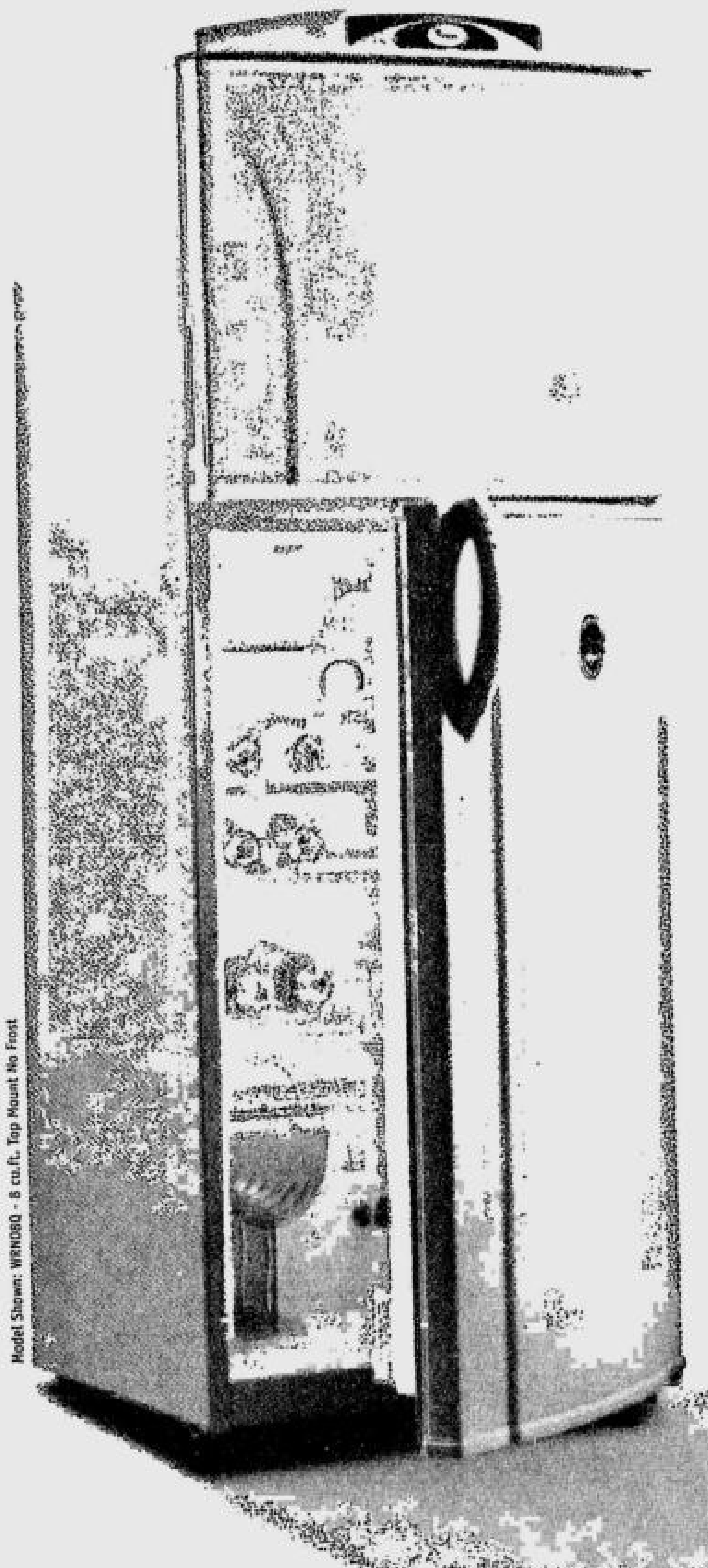
North Edsa . . .

to pay only once for the Warranty Plus. When the appliance needs servicing during the warranty coverage, the customer will save a lot of money on repair bills.

Loyal **Rewards Plus** members are assured of card acceptance in the exhibit and in the Automatic Centre branch network. Earn points with each purchase you make. Just present your Reward Plus Card.

And for couples planning to tie the knot this year, give your sponsors and guests the opportunity to buy their gifts through the **Bridal Gift Registry** service. Available in Automatic Centre branches at Ayala Avenue in Makati, Glorietta 4, and in Alabang Town Center.



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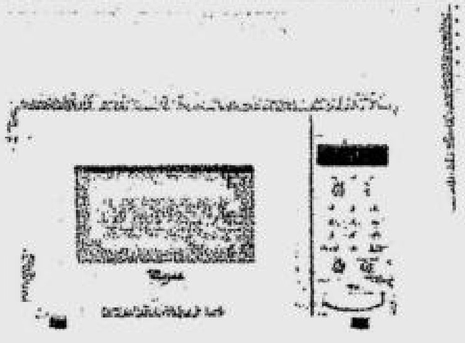

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